

Hepatitis C: State of Medicaid Access Report Card

California



Grade	Recommendations to Improve Patient Access
B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove retreatment restrictions. Remove additional restrictions as described in report card.

State Overview

As of February 2022, 13,367,435 individuals were enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP.¹ It is estimated that as of 2016, 318,900 people were living with HCV in California.² California managed a managed care program, but all prescription drugs are carved out and administered by the centralized Medi-Cal Rx program.³

The California Medicaid Preferred Drug List includes glecaprevir/pibrentasvir and aofosbuvir/velpatasvir.⁴

Deductions		Policy
Prior Authorization		Prior authorization is not required for preferred HCV treatment regimens. ⁵
Fibrosis Restrictions		California Medicaid does not impose fibrosis restrictions. ⁶
Substance Use Restrictions		California Medicaid does not impose substance use restrictions. ⁷
Prescriber Restrictions		California Medicaid does not impose prescriber restrictions. ⁸
Retreatment Restrictions	-8	California Medicaid imposes retreatment restrictions. "Caution shall be exercised with patients who have a history of treatment failure with prior HCV treatment due to non-adherence with treatment regimen and appointments." ⁹
Access in Managed Care		California MCOs do not administer the Medicaid pharmacy benefit. ¹⁰
Additional Restrictions	-4	California Medicaid imposes additional restrictions as follows: ¹¹ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Documentation of adherence assessment. Extended treatment will not be available if "patient non-compliance with the prescribed regimen precipitated the need to extend the duration." Prohibits refills for lost or stolen medications.
Total Deductions	-12	Total Score [100-Deductions] <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.5em;">88</div>
		Grade B

Contact Your State Officials

Medicaid Office¹²: Michelle Baass, Director, California Department of Health Care Services
P.O. Box 997413, MS 0000, Sacramento, CA 95899-7413

Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee¹³: Harry Hendrix, Pharmacy Benefits Division
Telephone: (916) 552-9500; Email Address: Harry.Hendrix@dhcs.ca.gov or RxCarveOut@dhcs.ca.gov

Key Sources

Preferred Drug List: [California Department of Health Care Services, Medi-Cal Rx Contract Drugs List \(May 2022\).](#)

Clinical Criteria: [California Department of Health Care Services, Treatment Policy for the Management of Chronic Hepatitis C \(Mar. 2022\).](#)

¹ Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Medicaid & CHIP in California: <https://perma.cc/ZD2P-UR87>.

² HepVu, Local Data: California (Jan. 2022): <https://perma.cc/25VM-WS3M>.

³ California Department of Health Care Services, Welcome to Medi-Cal Rx: <https://perma.cc/HF5B-DEEH>.

⁴ Preferred Drug List.

⁵ Preferred Drug List.

⁶ Clinical Criteria.

⁷ Clinical Criteria.

⁸ Clinical Criteria.

⁹ Clinical Criteria.

¹⁰ California Department of Health Care Services, Welcome to Medi-Cal Rx: <https://perma.cc/HF5B-DEEH>.

¹¹ Clinical Criteria.

¹² California Department of Health Care Services, About Director Michelle Baass (Oct. 2021): <https://perma.cc/B3H5-NEPY>.

¹³ California Department of Health Care Services, Medi-Cal Rx: Transition (Jun. 2022): <https://perma.cc/K8PV-SEG4>.