

# Hepatitis C: State of Medicaid Access Report Card

## California



Grade	Recommendations to Improve Patient Access
<b>A</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remove retreatment restrictions.</li> </ul>

### State Overview

As of October 2023, 14,008,964 individuals were enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP.<sup>1</sup> It is estimated that as of 2016, 318,900 people were living with HCV in California.<sup>2</sup> While Medi-Cal operates a managed care program, as of January 1, 2022, all pharmacy services transitioned from managed care to fee-for-service using a uniform preferred drug list.<sup>3</sup>

The California Medicaid Preferred Drug List includes ledipasvir/sofosbuvir and sofosbuvir/velpatasvir.<sup>4</sup>

Deductions		Policy
Prior Authorization		Prior authorization is not required for preferred HCV treatment regimens. <sup>5</sup>
Fibrosis Restrictions		California Medicaid does not impose fibrosis restrictions. <sup>6</sup>
Substance Use Restrictions		California Medicaid does not impose substance use restrictions. <sup>7</sup>
Prescriber Restrictions		California Medicaid does not impose prescriber restrictions. <sup>8</sup>
Retreatment Restrictions	-8	California Medicaid imposes retreatment restrictions. The criteria state that “evidence of lack of adherence may result in denial of treatment reauthorization” and “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.” <sup>9</sup>
Access in Managed Care		California MCOs do not administer the Medicaid pharmacy benefit. <sup>10</sup>
Additional Restrictions		California Medicaid does not impose additional restrictions. <sup>11</sup>
<b>Total Deductions</b>	<b>-8</b>	<b>Total Score [100-Deductions]</b>
		<b>92</b>
		<b>Grade</b>
		<b>A</b>

### Contact Your State Officials

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### Key Sources

**Preferred Drug List:** [California Department of Health Care Services, Medi-Cal Rx Contract Drugs List \(Feb. 1, 2024\).](#)  
**Clinical Criteria:** [California Department of Health Care Services, Treatment Policy for the Management of Chronic Hepatitis C \(Dec. 9, 2021\).](#)

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- <sup>1</sup> Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Medicaid & CHIP in California, <https://perma.cc/P5U2-SPWS>.
  - <sup>2</sup> HepVu, Local Data: California (Jan. 2022), <https://perma.cc/25VM-WS3M>.
  - <sup>3</sup> California Department of Health Care Services, Welcome to Medi-Cal Rx, <https://perma.cc/CW9N-RT2P>.
  - <sup>4</sup> Preferred Drug List.
  - <sup>5</sup> Preferred Drug List.
  - <sup>6</sup> Clinical Criteria.
  - <sup>7</sup> Clinical Criteria.
  - <sup>8</sup> Clinical Criteria.
  - <sup>9</sup> Clinical Criteria.
  - <sup>10</sup> California Department of Health Care Services, Welcome to Medi-Cal Rx, <https://perma.cc/HF5B-DEEH>.
  - <sup>11</sup> Clinical Criteria.
  - <sup>12</sup> California Department of Health Care Services, Organization Chart, <https://perma.cc/AU2P-UC32>.
  - <sup>13</sup> California Department of Health Care Services, Medi-Cal Rx: Transition (Jun. 2022), <https://perma.cc/6TV5-J4XZ>.