

Hepatitis C: State of Medicaid Access Report Card

California

Estimated Number of Individuals Living with Hepatitis C: 318,900¹



Grade	Summary
A+	<p>Liver Damage (Fibrosis) Restrictions: Medi-Cal does not impose liver damage requirements.</p> <p>Sobriety Restrictions: Medi-Cal does not impose sobriety requirements.</p> <p>Prescriber Restrictions: Medi-Cal does not impose prescriber requirements.</p> <p>Recommendations to Improve Patient Access:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Continue to provide streamlined access to hepatitis C treatment. <p><i>Grade Rationale: California has made significant progress in expanding access to hepatitis C treatment. The state no longer requires prior authorization for the preferred treatment regimens within the FFS program, and it does not impose any restrictions on non-preferred regimens apart from submitting a prior authorization request. Additionally, the state's transition to a single preferred drug list in 2022 ensures coverage parity across the entire program.</i></p>

Background

As of April 2021, California had 12,752,776 individuals enrolled in Medicaid (known as Medi-Cal) and the Children's Health Insurance Program.² Medi-Cal operates a Fee-For-Service (FFS) program and employs six managed care models: Two-Plan, County Organized Health Systems (COHS), Geographic Managed Care (GMC), Regional Model (RM), Imperial and San Benito (county).³ Most beneficiaries, 81 percent, are enrolled in a managed care organization (MCO) that operates in one of the above managed care systems.⁴ The remaining 19 percent participate in the FFS program.⁵ In 2022, California carved out its pharmacy program from the MCO program and now provides all prescriptions via the state's pharmacy program, Medi-Cal Rx.⁶ As a result, there is full coverage parity for hepatitis C treatment across the FFS and MCO programs.

State of Medicaid Hepatitis C Treatment Access

California provides open access to hepatitis C treatment. As of January 1, 2021, FFS beneficiaries prescribed the state's preferred treatment regimens do not need a prior authorization to obtain treatment.⁷ Additionally, non-preferred regimens, while requiring prior authorization, do not face any liver damage, sobriety, or prescriber restrictions.⁸ The Medi-Cal formulary lists Mavyret and Epclusa as preferred regimens. Since the pharmacy benefit was carved out of the MCO program in 2022, these policies now apply to all Medi-Cal beneficiaries.

Liver Damage (Fibrosis) Restrictions

Medi-Cal does not impose liver damage requirements.

Sobriety Restrictions

Medi-Cal does not impose sobriety requirements.

Provider Restrictions

Medi-Cal does not impose prescriber requirements.

Points of Contact for Questions & Concerns about California's State of Hepatitis C Medicaid Access

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- ¹ California State Profile, HepVu: <https://hepvu.org/state/california>.
 - ² Medicaid and CHIP in California, By-State, Medicaid.gov: <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/by-state/stateprofile.html?state=california>.
 - ³ Medi-Cal Managed Care, California Department of Health Care Services: <http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/Pages/Medi-CalManagedCare.aspx>; See also Total Medicaid MCOs, Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation: <http://kff.org/other/state-indicator/total-medicaid-mcos>.
 - ⁴ Share of Medicaid Population Covered Under Different Delivery Systems, Medicaid Managed Care Market Tracker, Henry J Kaiser Family Foundation: <http://www.kff.org/medicaid/state-indicator/share-of-medicaid-population-covered-under-different-delivery-systems/?currentTimeframe=0&sortModel=-%7B%22colId%22:%22Location%22,%22sort%22:%22asc%22%7D>.
 - ⁵ Share of Medicaid Population Covered Under Different Delivery Systems, Medicaid Managed Care Market Tracker, Henry J Kaiser Family Foundation: <http://www.kff.org/medicaid/state-indicator/share-of-medicaid-population-covered-under-different-delivery-systems/?currentTimeframe=0&sortModel=-%7B%22colId%22:%22Location%22,%22sort%22:%22asc%22%7D>.
 - ⁶ Medi-Cal Rx, DHCS: <https://medi-calrx.dhcs.ca.gov/home/>.
 - ⁷ Medi-Cal Rx Contract Drugs List, DHCS: https://medi-calrx.dhcs.ca.gov/cms/medicalrx/static-assets/documents/provider/forms-and-information/cdl/Medi-Cal_Rx_Contract_Drugs_List_FINAL.pdf; See also DHCS Treatment Policy for the Management of Chronic Hepatitis C, DHCS: <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/Pages/HepatitisC.aspx>.
 - ⁸ Treatment Policy for the Management of Chronic Hepatitis C, Updated and Effective March 30, 2020, DHCS: <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/Documents/Chronic-Hep-C.pdf>
 - ⁹ Department of Health Care Services Contacts, DHCS: http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/Pages/dhcs_contact.aspx; See also About Director Michelle Baass, DHCS: <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/Pages/DHCS-Director-Biography.aspx>.
 - ¹⁰ Medi-Cal Rx: Transition, DHCS: <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/provgovpart/pharmacy/Pages/Medi-CalRX.aspx>.