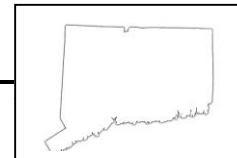


Hepatitis C: State of Medicaid Access Report Card

Connecticut

Estimated Number of Individuals Living with Hepatitis C: 18,300¹



Grade	Summary
B+	<p>Liver Damage (Fibrosis) Restrictions: Connecticut does not impose any liver damage restrictions.</p> <p>Sobriety Restrictions: Connecticut does not impose any sobriety restrictions.</p> <p>Prescriber Restrictions: Connecticut does not impose any prescriber restrictions.</p> <p>Recommendations to Improve Patient Access:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Remove prior authorizations for preferred agentsRemove the requirement to dispense a maximum of 14 days' supply at a time <p><i>Grade Rationale: While Connecticut has minimal requirements to access hepatitis C treatment, prescriptions may only be dispensed for 14 days at a time once the prior authorization is approved. For this reason, Connecticut's grade was reduced from an A to a B+.</i></p>

Background

As of May 2021, there were 951,563 beneficiaries enrolled in the state's Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).² In 2010, Connecticut's Medical Assistance Program transitioned from a primarily Managed Care Organization (MCO) to a Fee-For-Service (FFS) program.³ All Medicaid beneficiaries are enrolled in the FFS program, which includes pharmacy services.⁴ The FFS program sets the coverage requirements for accessing hepatitis C medications.

State of Medicaid Hepatitis C Treatment Access

In 2015, as a result of legal action from New Haven Legal Assistance and political pressure from patient advocates, Connecticut significantly increased access to hepatitis C medications, removing all liver damage, sobriety and prescribing requirements.⁵ Connecticut's prior authorization (PA) form requests if the patient is 18 years of age or older and has been diagnosed with chronic hepatitis C.⁶ The request form also inquires whether the patient has a known or suspected malignancy and whether the patient has a terminal disease.⁷ The PA form does not request any information on sobriety nor does it indicate any prescribing requirements.⁸ Additionally, the state does not request information on HIV co-infection.⁹ Medications are initially authorized for 12 weeks; however, a prescriber can indicate on the PA if a patient requires a longer duration of treatment.¹⁰ Notably, the PA form states that "payment will be authorized for 2 weeks of medication, with further refills available every 2 weeks." This could pose a significant challenge to patients who have difficulty navigating the healthcare system. The Preferred Drug List (PDL) covers the following medications: sofosbuvir/velpatasvir, Mavyret, and Vosevi.¹¹

Liver Damage (Fibrosis) Restrictions

Connecticut requires a diagnosis of chronic hepatitis C infection.¹² The state does not impose any liver damage requirements.

Sobriety Restrictions

Connecticut does not impose any sobriety requirements to access hepatitis C medications.¹³

Provider Restrictions

Connecticut does not impose any prescriber requirements.¹⁴

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

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¹ HepVu, Connecticut State Profile: <https://hepvu.org/local-data/connecticut/>

² Medicaid.gov; Medicaid & CHIP in Connecticut: <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/by-state/stateprofile.html?state=connecticut> (Accessed November 2021)

³ Connecticut General Assembly, Office of Legislative Research, Report 2015-R-0010, Medicaid Managed Care in Connecticut and Other States (2015): <https://www.cga.ct.gov/2015/rpt/pdf/2015-R-0010.pdf>

⁴ Ibid. Connecticut General Assembly, Office of Legislative Research, Report 2015-R-0010, Medicaid Managed Care in Connecticut and Other States (2015)

⁵ Legal Threat to Connecticut Removes HCV Restrictions, National AIDS Treatment Advocacy Program: http://www.natap.org/2015/HCV/062315_01.htm (Accessed November 2021)

⁶ State of Connecticut Department of Social Services, CT Medical Assistance Program Hepatitis C Prior Authorization Criteria (Accessed November 2021)

https://www.ctdssmap.com/CTPortal/Portals/0/StaticContent/Publications/Current_PA_Criteria.pdf; See also Hepatitis C Prior Authorization Request Form (Updated September 2021)

<https://www.ctdssmap.com/CTPortal/Information/Get-Download-File?Filename=Hep%20C%20PA%20Request%20Form.pdf&URI=Forms/Hep%20C%20PA%20Request%20Form.pdf>

⁷ Ibid. State of Connecticut Department of Social Services, CT Medical Assistance Program Hepatitis C Prior Authorization (Updated September 2021)

⁸ Ibid. State of Connecticut Department of Social Services, CT Medical Assistance Program Hepatitis C Prior Authorization (Updated September 2021)

⁹ Ibid. State of Connecticut Department of Social Services, CT Medical Assistance Program Hepatitis C Prior Authorization (Updated September 2021)

¹⁰ Ibid. State of Connecticut Department of Social Services, CT Medical Assistance Program Hepatitis C Prior Authorization (Updated September 2021)

¹¹ Connecticut Medicaid, Preferred Drug List (PDL) (Updated October 2021): https://www.ctdssmap.com/CTPortal/Portals/0/StaticContent/Publications/CT_PDL_medicaid.pdf

¹² Ibid. State of Connecticut Department of Social Services, CT Medical Assistance Program Hepatitis C Prior Authorization (Updated October 2021)

¹³ Ibid. State of Connecticut Department of Social Services, CT Medical Assistance Program Hepatitis C Prior Authorization (Updated October 2021)

¹⁴ Ibid. State of Connecticut Department of Social Services, CT Medical Assistance Program Hepatitis C Prior Authorization (Updated October 2021)

¹⁵ State of Connecticut Department of Social Services, Press Releases (Accessed November 2021) <https://portal.ct.gov/DSS/Press-Room/Press-Releases/Kate-McEvoy-DSS-Medicaid-and-Health-Services-Director>

¹⁶ Connecticut Department of Social Services, Pharmacy Information, Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee (Accessed November 2021): <https://www.ctdssmap.com/CTPortal/Pharmacy-Information>