

Hepatitis C: State of Medicaid Access Report Card

Georgia

Estimated Number of Individuals Living with Hepatitis C: 56,800¹



Grade	Summary
<p>C+</p>	<p>Liver Damage (Fibrosis) Restrictions: Fee-For-Service (FFS) and AmeriGroup Community Care do not have any liver damage requirements. Peach State Health Plan and CareSource do not have publicly available information.</p> <p>Sobriety Restrictions: FFS and AmeriGroup require a patient to enroll in a substance use program if the individual is currently using alcohol or intravenous drugs. Peach State Health Plan and CareSource do not have publicly available information.</p> <p>Prescriber Restrictions: FFS and AmeriGroup do not have any prescriber restrictions. Peach State Health Plan and CareSource do not have publicly available information.</p> <p>Recommendations to Improve Patient Access:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eliminate sobriety restriction. • Ensure transparency and parity across FFS and MCOs regarding hepatitis C coverage criteria. <p><i>Grade Rationale: While Georgia FFS and one MCO do not have liver damage or prescriber requirements, two MCOs do not have publicly available information. FFS and at least one MCO require a patient to enroll in a substance use program to access treatment. To improve their grade, Georgia must make public the coverage criteria for all MCOs and ensure parity across FFS and MCOs.</i></p>

Background

As of May 2021, there were 2,159,944² individuals enrolled in Georgia’s Medicaid program, known as Georgia Families. This program provides health care services to Medicaid enrollees and PeachCare (for kids) in partnership with the Georgia Department of Community Health and Managed Care Organizations (MCOs).³ Georgia Families works with three MCOs including: AmeriGroup Community Care (Amerigroup), CareSource, and the Peach State Health Plan (owned by Centene Corporation).⁴ Over 75 percent of Medicaid beneficiaries are enrolled in MCOs; the remaining 25 percent are enrolled in the Fee-For-Service (FFS) program.⁵

State of Medicaid Hepatitis C Treatment Access

There has been some political and public discussion on the hepatitis C epidemic in Georgia, particularly in the state legislature. In 2015, State Senator Dean Burke, a physician, organized a panel of health experts from public and private sectors to highlight the challenges and opportunities of addressing the disease. All panelists “agreed tackling the virus now, despite the costs, will save the state untold millions of dollars in the long run.”⁶ Additionally, there have been hearings in the General Assembly on the epidemic.⁷ The state responded to the 2014 NVHR/CHLPI survey on hepatitis C coverage requirements.

FFS publishes clinical criteria in a PA summary, however the prior authorization form is not publicly available. Preferred products include Mavyret, sofosbuvir/velpatasvir, and Vosevi.⁸

Amerigroup publishes clinical pharmacy policies for Mavyret and Vosevi, however the prior authorization form is not publicly available. Amerigroup’s preferred products include Mavyret and sofosbuvir/velpatasvir.⁹

CareSource’s prior authorization criteria are unknown. The website provides a general specialty PA form that does not include hepatitis C specific information.¹⁰ CareSource’s preferred products include Mavyret and sofosbuvir/velpatasvir.¹¹

Peach State Health Plan’s prior authorization criteria are unknown. The website provides a general specialty PA form that does not include hepatitis C specific information.¹² Preferred products include Mavyret.¹³

Liver Damage (Fibrosis) Restrictions

FFS does not impose liver damage requirements. FFS requires a diagnosis of chronic hepatitis C.¹⁴

Amerigroup does not impose liver damage requirements. Amerigroup requires patients to be diagnosed with chronic hepatitis C and a baseline quantitative hepatitis C RNA test within 6 months of starting treatment.¹⁵

Peach State Health Plan's and CareSource's liver damage criteria are unknown. Their websites provide a general specialty PA form that does not include hepatitis C specific information.^{16,17}

Sobriety Restrictions

FFS requires a patient to enroll in a substance use program if the patient is a current user of alcohol or intravenous drugs.¹⁸ Additionally, requests for retreatment, except for Vosevi, require submission of the Hepatitis C Retreatment form.¹⁹

Amerigroup requires a patient to be enrolled in substance use program if the individual is currently using alcohol or intravenous drugs.²⁰

Peach State Health Plan's and CareSource's sobriety criteria are unknown. Their websites provide a general specialty medicine PA form that does not include hepatitis C specific information.^{21,22}

Prescriber Restrictions

FFS does not appear to impose any prescriber restrictions.²³

Amerigroup does not appear to impose any prescriber restrictions.²⁴

Peach State Health Plan's and CareSource's prescriber criteria are unknown. Their websites provide a general specialty medicine PA form that does not include hepatitis C specific information.^{25,26}

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

Medicaid Program:²⁷ Lynette Rhodes, Acting Medicaid Director, Georgia Department of Community Health

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¹ HepVu, Georgia State Profile: <https://hepvu.org/state/georgia/>

² Medicaid & CHIP in Georgia; By-State, Medicaid.gov (Accessed November 2021): <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/by-state/stateprofile.html?state=georgia>
<https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid-chip-program-information/program-information/medicaid-and-chip-enrollment-data/medicaid-enrollment-data-collected-through-mbes.html> (Accessed November 2021)

³ Georgia Department of Community Health, Georgia Families (Accessed November 2021) <https://dch.georgia.gov/georgia-families>

⁴ Georgia Department of Community Health, Care Management Organizations (Accessed November 2021) <http://dch.georgia.gov/care-management-organizations-cmo>

⁵ Share of Medicaid Population Covered under Different Delivery Systems, The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation (Updated July 2021)

⁶ <http://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>

⁷ Jim Burrell, Eradicating Hepatitis C in Georgia an Expensive, Essential Goal, 90.1 WABE RADIO, Aug. 12, 2015, <http://news.wabe.org/post/eradicating-hepatitis-c-georgia-expensive-essential-goal> (Accessed April 2017)

⁸ Jim Burrell, Eradicating Hepatitis C in Georgia an Expensive, Essential Goal, 90.1 WABE RADIO, Aug. 12, 2015, <http://news.wabe.org/post/eradicating-hepatitis-c-georgia-expensive-essential-goal> (Accessed April 2017)

⁹ Georgia Department of Community Health, Georgia Medicaid/PeachCare Preferred Drug List (Updated November 2021) <https://dch.georgia.gov/providers/provider-types/pharmacy/preferred-drug-lists>

¹⁰ Amerigroup, Medicaid-Approved Preferred Drug List (Updated November 2021), https://fm.formularynavigator.com/FBO/4/Georgia_PDL_English.pdf

¹¹ CareSource Georgia Medicaid, Forms, Pharmacy Prior Authorization (Accessed November 2021) <https://www.caresource.com/ga/providers/tools-resources/forms/medicaid/>

¹² CareSource Georgia Medicaid, Preferred Drug List (Updated October 2021) <https://www.caresource.com/documents/ga-mmed-1618-ga-mcd-pck-formulary-508/>

¹³ Peach State Health Plan, Pharmacy Forms (Accessed December 2021) <https://www.pshpgeorgia.com/providers/pharmacy.html>

¹⁴ Peach State Health Plan, Preferred Drug List (Updated June 2021) <https://www.pshpgeorgia.com/content/dam/centene/peachstate/pdfs/GA-Medicaid-June-2021.pdf>

¹⁵ Ibid. Georgia Dept. of Community Health, Georgia Medicaid Fee-for-Service Hepatitis C Agents PA Summary (Updated July 2021),

¹⁶ Amerigroup, Clinical Pharmacy Policies (Accessed November 2021) <https://provider.amerigroup.com/georgia-provider/resources/pharmacy-information/clinical-pharmacy-policies>; see also Mavyret (Updated April 2021) https://provider.amerigroup.com/docs/gpp/PHARM_ALL_Mavyret_Update_21.pdf?v=202106172041; see also Vosevi (Updated April 2021)

¹⁷ https://provider.amerigroup.com/docs/gpp/PHARM_ALL_Vosevi_Update_21.pdf?v=202106172041

¹⁸ Ibid. Peach State Health Plan, Pharmacy Forms (Accessed December 2021)

¹⁹ Ibid. CareSource Georgia Medicaid, Forms, Pharmacy Prior Authorization (Accessed November 2021)

²⁰ Ibid. Georgia Dept. of Community Health, Georgia Medicaid Fee-for-Service Hepatitis C Agents PA Summary (Updated July 2021)

²¹ Georgia Department of Community Health, Hepatitis C Virus Re-Treatment Prior Authorization Request Form (Updated June 2019) <https://dch.georgia.gov/providers/provider-types/pharmacy/prior-authorization-process-and-criteria>

²² Ibid. Amerigroup, Clinical Pharmacy Policies: Mavyret (Updated April 2021)

²³ Ibid. Peach State Health Plan, Pharmacy Forms (Accessed December 2021)

²⁴ Ibid. CareSource Georgia Medicaid, Forms, Pharmacy Prior Authorization (Accessed November 2021)

²⁵ Ibid. Georgia Department of Community Health, Georgia Medicaid Fee-for-Service Hepatitis C Agents PA Summary (Updated July 2021)

²⁶ Ibid. Amerigroup, Clinical Pharmacy Policies: Mavyret (Updated April 2021)

²⁷ Ibid. Peach State Health Plan, Pharmacy Forms (Accessed December 2021)

²⁸ Ibid. CareSource Georgia Medicaid, Forms, Pharmacy Prior Authorization (Accessed November 2021)

²⁹ National Association of Medicaid Directors, Contact Information (Accessed December 2021) <https://medicaidirectors.org/about/medicaid-directors/>