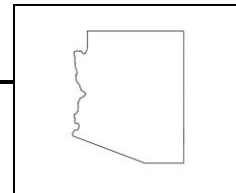


# Hepatitis C: State of Medicaid Access Report Card

## Arizona

Estimated Number of Individuals Living with Hepatitis C: 90,000<sup>1</sup>



Grade	Summary
<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; color: #8B4513;">C+</p>	<p><b>Liver Damage (Fibrosis) Restrictions:</b> Fee-For-Service (FFS) and five Managed Care Organizations (MCOs), Health Choice, Health Net, Care 1st, Mercy Care, and UHC, require a diagnosis of chronic hepatitis C to access treatment. One MCO, University Family Care, does not have publicly available hepatitis C coverage criteria.</p> <p><b>Sobriety Restrictions:</b> FFS and five MCOs, Health Choice, Health Net, Care 1st, Mercy Care, and UHC, require beneficiaries to be “in remission” for the past three months from the request date of treatment, and those who have had “a substance use disorder within the past 12 months” must engage in a treatment program. One MCO, University Family Care, does not have publicly available hepatitis C coverage criteria.</p> <p><b>Prescriber Restrictions:</b> Arizona FFS and four MCOs, Health Choice, Health Net, Care 1st, and Mercy Care, require a prescription to be written by or in consultation with a hepatologist, gastroenterologist, or infectious disease specialist. One MCO, UnitedHealthcare Community Plan, requires a specialist to prescribe. One MCO, University Family Care, does not have publicly available hepatitis C coverage criteria.</p> <p><b>Recommendations to Improve Patient Access:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove sobriety and prescriber requirements.</li> <li>• Improve transparency regarding hepatitis C coverage criteria and ensure parity across FFS and MCO plans.</li> </ul> <p><i>Grade Rationale: FFS and most MCOs have significantly expanded access by removing liver damage restrictions. However, sobriety requirements, prescriber requirements, and lack of transparency continue to impede access to hepatitis C treatment.</i></p>

### Background

As of June 2017, Arizona had 1,744,617 individuals enrolled in Medicaid and Children Health Insurance Program.<sup>2</sup> Arizona’s Medicaid program, known as the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS), requires all beneficiaries to enroll in a Managed Care Organization (MCO) except American Indians/Alaska Natives enrolled in the Acute Care Program.<sup>3</sup> They may choose to receive services through either a health plan or through the American Indian Health Program.<sup>4</sup> Over 92 percent of Medicaid beneficiaries are enrolled in a MCO plan.<sup>5</sup> Arizona contracts with 17 different MCOs. This report card focuses on hepatitis C coverage requirements of the plans that cover beneficiaries enrolled in the Acute Care Program.<sup>6</sup> Most MCOs do not offer coverage statewide; rather, they focus geographically in certain counties and on particular beneficiary populations. As of April 2017, the six plans that cover most enrollees are Care 1<sup>st</sup> Arizona (Care 1<sup>st</sup>), Health Choice, Health Net, Mercy Care Plan, UnitedHealthcare Community Plan (UHC), and University Family Care.<sup>7</sup> The remaining plans have fewer than three percent of total enrollees.<sup>8</sup>

### State of Medicaid Hepatitis C Treatment Access

FFS and three MCOs, Health Choice, Health Net and Care 1st, previously required moderate liver damage (F2), but now require only a diagnosis of chronic hepatitis C to access treatment.<sup>9</sup> Beneficiaries must be at least 12 years old and screened and vaccinated for hepatitis B and C.<sup>10</sup> Providers must assess “patient readiness,” and patients must file a signed attestation acknowledging the risks of reinfection.<sup>11</sup> Patients must also participate in a treatment adherence program.<sup>12</sup>

Mercy Care’s website links to the updated AHCCCS hepatitis C coverage criteria, indicating that it imposes the same requirements as the FFS and three MCO plans.<sup>13</sup> UHC has dropped its prior requirement of severe liver damage (F3 or greater) to comply with all of the new, expanded FFS criteria for accessing treatment.<sup>14</sup>

FFS and three MCOs, Health Choice, Health Net and Care 1<sup>st</sup>, require beneficiaries to be “in remission” for the past three months from the request date of treatment, and those who have had “a substance use disorder within the past 12 months” must engage in a treatment program.<sup>15</sup> Mercy Care’s website links to the updated AHCCCS hepatitis C coverage criteria, indicating that it imposes the same requirements as the FFS and three MCO plans.<sup>16</sup> UHC has revised its previously less stringent sobriety criteria to impose the same requirements as the FFS and three MCO plans.<sup>17</sup>

FFS and most MCOs appear to impose similar prescribing requirements. A prescription must be written by or in consultation with a gastroenterologist, hepatologist, or infectious disease specialist.<sup>18</sup> However, UHC still requires a specialist to prescribe.<sup>19</sup>

FFS and MCO plans list Mavret as the preferred treatment on their formularies.<sup>20</sup>

University Family Care's hepatitis C coverage criteria are not publicly available.<sup>21</sup>

## Liver Damage (Fibrosis) Restrictions

Arizona's FFS and five MCOs, Health Choice, Health Net, Care 1st, Mercy Care, and UHC, require a diagnosis of chronic hepatitis C to access treatment.<sup>22</sup> Beneficiaries must be at least 12 years old and screened and vaccinated for hepatitis B and C.<sup>23</sup> Providers must assess "patient readiness," and patients must file a signed attestation acknowledging the risks of reinfection.<sup>24</sup> Patients must also participate in a treatment adherence program.<sup>25</sup> University Family Care does not provide publicly available hepatitis C coverage criteria.<sup>26</sup>

## Sobriety Restrictions

FFS and five MCOs, Health Choice, Health Net, Care 1st, Mercy Care, and UHC, require beneficiaries to be "in remission" for the past three months from the request date of treatment, and those who have had "a substance use disorder within the past 12 months" must engage in a treatment program.<sup>27</sup>

University Family Care does not provide its hepatitis C coverage criteria publicly.<sup>28</sup>

## Provider Restrictions

Arizona FFS and four MCOs, Health Choice, Health Net, Care 1st, and Mercy Care, require a prescription to be written by or in consultation with a hepatologist, gastroenterologist, or infectious disease specialist.<sup>29</sup> UHC requires a specialist to prescribe.<sup>30</sup>

University Family Care does not provide its hepatitis C coverage criteria publicly.<sup>31</sup>

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

### Medicaid<sup>32</sup>: Thomas J. Betlach, Director, Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System

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<sup>1</sup> HepVu, Arizona State Profile: <https://hepvu.org/state/arizona/>

<sup>2</sup> Medicaid and CHIP in Arizona, By-State, Medicaid.gov (Accessed June 2017): <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/by-state/stateprofile.html?state=arizona>

<sup>3</sup> About the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS), AHCCCS Info (Accessed June 2017): <https://www.azahcccs.gov/AHCCCS>; See also: AHCCCS 101, AHCCCS Fact Sheet (Accessed June 2017): <https://www.azahcccs.gov/AHCCCS>

<sup>4</sup> Ibid. AHCCCS 101, AHCCCS Fact Sheet

<sup>5</sup> Share of Medicaid Population Covered under Different Delivery Systems, The 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> (Accessed June 2017)

<sup>6</sup> Ibid. Health Plan Contact Information, AHCCCS; See also AHCCCS 101, AHCCCS Fact Sheet; See also Care Delivery System, AHCCCS (Accessed June 2017): <https://www.azahcccs.gov/shared/Downloads/DeliverySystemJuly2016.pdf>; See also: About the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System

<sup>7</sup> AHCCCS Acute Enrollment, By County by Health Plan, April 2017 (Accessed June 2017): <https://www.azahcccs.gov/PlansProviders/Downloads/Enrol1st2017.pdf>; See also AHCCCS Resources: <https://www.azahcccs.gov/Resources/Reports/providerpopreport.html>

<sup>8</sup> Ibid. AHCCCS Acute Enrollment

<sup>9</sup> AHCCCS Medical Policy Manual (AMPM) Policy 320-N, Hepatitis C (HCV) Prior Authorization Requirements for Direct Acting Antiviral Medication Treatment: <https://www.azahcccs.gov/shared/Downloads/MedicalPolicyManual/300/320N.pdf>.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

<sup>13</sup> Mercy Care Pharmacy Prior Authorization Guidelines: <https://www.mercycareplan.com/providers/information/prescription-drug-benefits>

<sup>14</sup> Hepatitis C Medication Prior Authorization Request Form, UnitedHealthcare (Accessed March 2018): <https://www.uhcommunityplan.com/content/dam/communityplan/healthcareprofessionals/pharmacyprogram/AZ-Pharmacy/AZ-Hepatitis-C-Medications-Prior-Authorization-Form.pdf>; See also: Hepatitis C, Pharmacy Prior Authorization Forms, AHCCCS Medicaid, Pharmacy Program, UnitedHealthcare, Arizona (Accessed March 2018): <http://www.uhcommunityplan.com/health-professionals/az/pharmacy-program.html>

<sup>15</sup> Ibid. AHCCCS Medical Policy Manual (AMPM) Policy 320-N, Hepatitis C (HCV) Prior Authorization Requirements for Direct Acting Antiviral Medication Treatment: <https://www.azahcccs.gov/shared/Downloads/MedicalPolicyManual/300/320N.pdf>.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid. Mercy Care Pharmacy Prior Authorization Guidelines: <https://www.mercycareplan.com/providers/information/prescription-drug-benefits>

<sup>17</sup> Ibid. Hepatitis C Medication Prior Authorization Request Form, UnitedHealthcare, Updated: 03/16/2017 (Accessed June 2017/March 2018): <https://www.uhcommunityplan.com/content/dam/communityplan/healthcareprofessionals/pharmacyprogram/AZ-Pharmacy/AZ-Hepatitis-C-Medications-Prior-Authorization-Form.pdf>; [http://www.uhcommunityplan.com/content/dam/communityplan/healthcareprofessionals/pharmacyprogram/Hepatitis\\_C.pdf](http://www.uhcommunityplan.com/content/dam/communityplan/healthcareprofessionals/pharmacyprogram/Hepatitis_C.pdf); See also: Hepatitis C, Pharmacy Prior Authorization Forms, AHCCCS Medicaid, Pharmacy Program, UnitedHealthcare, Arizona (Accessed June 2017/March 2018): <http://www.uhcommunityplan.com/health-professionals/az/pharmacy-program.html>

<sup>18</sup> Ibid. AHCCCS Medical Policy Manual (AMPM) Policy 320-N, Hepatitis C (HCV) Prior Authorization Requirements for Direct Acting Antiviral Medication Treatment: <https://www.azahcccs.gov/shared/Downloads/MedicalPolicyManual/300/320N.pdf>; Ibid. Mercy Care Pharmacy Prior Authorization Guidelines: <https://www.mercycareplan.com/providers/information/prescription-drug-benefits>

<sup>19</sup> Ibid. Hepatitis C Medication Prior Authorization Request Form, UnitedHealthcare (Accessed March 2018): <https://www.uhcommunityplan.com/content/dam/communityplan/healthcareprofessionals/pharmacyprogram/AZ-Pharmacy/AZ-Hepatitis-C-Medications-Prior-Authorization-Form.pdf>; [http://www.uhcommunityplan.com/content/dam/communityplan/healthcareprofessionals/pharmacyprogram/Hepatitis\\_C.pdf](http://www.uhcommunityplan.com/content/dam/communityplan/healthcareprofessionals/pharmacyprogram/Hepatitis_C.pdf); See also: Hepatitis C, Pharmacy Prior Authorization Forms, AHCCCS Medicaid, Pharmacy Program, UnitedHealthcare, Arizona (Accessed June 2017/March 2018): <http://www.uhcommunityplan.com/health-professionals/az/pharmacy-program.html>

<sup>20</sup> AHCCCS Acute – Long Term Care Drug List Effective January 1, 2018: <https://azahcccs.gov/Resources/Downloads/PharmacyUpdates/AHCCCSAcuteLongTermCareDrugList.pdf>; UnitedHealthcare Community Plan Preferred Drug List (PDL): <https://www.uhcommunityplan.com/content/dam/communityplan/plandocuments/findadru/AZ-PDL/AZ-PDL-APIPA-AHCCCS-Medicaid-Developmentally-Disabled-Provider.pdf>

<sup>21</sup> Prior Authorization, Medical and Pharmacy, Provider Services, University of Arizona Health Plans (Accessed March 2018): <https://www.uhealthplans.com/provider-services/medical-and-pharmacy#Prior-Authorizations>

<sup>22</sup> Ibid. Hepatitis C Medication Prior Authorization Request Form, UnitedHealthcare (Accessed March 2018): <https://www.uhcommunityplan.com/content/dam/communityplan/healthcareprofessionals/pharmacyprogram/AZ-Pharmacy/AZ-Hepatitis-C-Medications-Prior-Authorization-Form.pdf>; [http://www.uhcommunityplan.com/content/dam/communityplan/healthcareprofessionals/pharmacyprogram/Hepatitis\\_C.pdf](http://www.uhcommunityplan.com/content/dam/communityplan/healthcareprofessionals/pharmacyprogram/Hepatitis_C.pdf); See also: Hepatitis C, Pharmacy Prior Authorization Forms, AHCCCS Medicaid, Pharmacy Program, UnitedHealthcare, Arizona (Accessed June 2017/March 2018): <http://www.uhcommunityplan.com/health-professionals/az/pharmacy-program.html>

<sup>23</sup> AHCCCS Acute – Long Term Care Drug List Effective January 1, 2018: <https://azahcccs.gov/Resources/Downloads/PharmacyUpdates/AHCCCSAcuteLongTermCareDrugList.pdf>; UnitedHealthcare Community Plan Preferred Drug List (PDL): <https://www.uhcommunityplan.com/content/dam/communityplan/plandocuments/findadru/AZ-PDL/AZ-PDL-APIPA-AHCCCS-Medicaid-Developmentally-Disabled-Provider.pdf>

<sup>24</sup> Prior Authorization, Medical and Pharmacy, Provider Services, University of Arizona Health Plans (Accessed March 2018): <https://www.uhealthplans.com/provider-services/medical-and-pharmacy#Prior-Authorizations>

<sup>25</sup> Ibid. Hepatitis C Medication Prior Authorization Request Form, UnitedHealthcare (Accessed March 2018): <https://www.uhcommunityplan.com/content/dam/communityplan/healthcareprofessionals/pharmacyprogram/AZ-Pharmacy/AZ-Hepatitis-C-Medications-Prior-Authorization-Form.pdf>; [http://www.uhcommunityplan.com/content/dam/communityplan/healthcareprofessionals/pharmacyprogram/Hepatitis\\_C.pdf](http://www.uhcommunityplan.com/content/dam/communityplan/healthcareprofessionals/pharmacyprogram/Hepatitis_C.pdf); See also: Hepatitis C, Pharmacy Prior Authorization Forms, AHCCCS Medicaid, Pharmacy Program, UnitedHealthcare, Arizona (Accessed June 2017/March 2018): <http://www.uhcommunityplan.com/health-professionals/az/pharmacy-program.html>

<sup>26</sup> AHCCCS Acute – Long Term Care Drug List Effective January 1, 2018: <https://azahcccs.gov/Resources/Downloads/PharmacyUpdates/AHCCCSAcuteLongTermCareDrugList.pdf>; UnitedHealthcare Community Plan Preferred Drug List (PDL): <https://www.uhcommunityplan.com/content/dam/communityplan/plandocuments/findadru/AZ-PDL/AZ-PDL-APIPA-AHCCCS-Medicaid-Developmentally-Disabled-Provider.pdf>

<sup>27</sup> Prior Authorization, Medical and Pharmacy, Provider Services, University of Arizona Health Plans (Accessed March 2018): <https://www.uhealthplans.com/provider-services/medical-and-pharmacy#Prior-Authorizations>

<sup>28</sup> Ibid. Hepatitis C Medication Prior Authorization Request Form, UnitedHealthcare (Accessed March 2018): <https://www.uhcommunityplan.com/content/dam/communityplan/healthcareprofessionals/pharmacyprogram/AZ-Pharmacy/AZ-Hepatitis-C-Medications-Prior-Authorization-Form.pdf>; [http://www.uhcommunityplan.com/content/dam/communityplan/healthcareprofessionals/pharmacyprogram/Hepatitis\\_C.pdf](http://www.uhcommunityplan.com/content/dam/communityplan/healthcareprofessionals/pharmacyprogram/Hepatitis_C.pdf); See also: Hepatitis C, Pharmacy Prior Authorization Forms, AHCCCS Medicaid, Pharmacy Program, UnitedHealthcare, Arizona (Accessed June 2017/March 2018): <http://www.uhcommunityplan.com/health-professionals/az/pharmacy-program.html>

<sup>29</sup> Ibid. AHCCCS Medical Policy Manual (AMPM) Policy 320-N, Hepatitis C (HCV) Prior Authorization Requirements for Direct Acting Antiviral Medication Treatment: <https://www.azahcccs.gov/shared/Downloads/MedicalPolicyManual/300/320N.pdf>; Ibid. Mercy Care Pharmacy Prior Authorization Guidelines: <https://www.mercycareplan.com/providers/information/prescription-drug-benefits>

<sup>30</sup> Ibid. Hepatitis C Medication Prior Authorization Request Form, UnitedHealthcare (Accessed March 2018): <https://www.uhcommunityplan.com/content/dam/communityplan/healthcareprofessionals/pharmacyprogram/AZ-Pharmacy/AZ-Hepatitis-C-Medications-Prior-Authorization-Form.pdf>; [http://www.uhcommunityplan.com/content/dam/communityplan/healthcareprofessionals/pharmacyprogram/Hepatitis\\_C.pdf](http://www.uhcommunityplan.com/content/dam/communityplan/healthcareprofessionals/pharmacyprogram/Hepatitis_C.pdf); See also: Hepatitis C, Pharmacy Prior Authorization Forms, AHCCCS Medicaid, Pharmacy Program, UnitedHealthcare, Arizona (Accessed June 2017/March 2018): <http://www.uhcommunityplan.com/health-professionals/az/pharmacy-program.html>

<sup>31</sup> Ibid. AHCCCS Medical Policy Manual (AMPM) Policy 320-N, Hepatitis C (HCV) Prior Authorization Requirements for Direct Acting Antiviral Medication Treatment: <https://www.azahcccs.gov/shared/Downloads/MedicalPolicyManual/300/320N.pdf>; Ibid. Mercy Care Pharmacy Prior Authorization Guidelines: <https://www.mercycareplan.com/providers/information/prescription-drug-benefits>

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- <sup>23</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>24</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>25</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>26</sup> Ibid. Prior Authorization, Medical and Pharmacy, Provider Services, University of Arizona Health Plans (Accessed March 2018): <https://www.uahealthplans.com/provider-services/medical-and-pharmacy#Prior-Authorizations>
- <sup>27</sup> Ibid. AHCCCS Medical Policy Manual (AMPM) Policy 320-N, Hepatitis C (HCV) Prior Authorization Requirements for Direct Acting Antiviral Medication Treatment: <https://www.azahcccs.gov/shared/Downloads/MedicalPolicyManual/300/320N.pdf>; Ibid. Mercy Care Pharmacy Prior Authorization Guidelines: <https://www.mercycareplan.com/providers/information/prescription-drug-benefits>; Ibid. Hepatitis C Medication Prior Authorization Request Form, UnitedHealthcare (Accessed March 2018): <https://www.uhcommunityplan.com/content/dam/communityplan/healthcareprofessionals/pharmacyprogram/AZ-Pharmacy/AZ-Hepatitis-C-Medications-Prior-Authorization-Form.pdf>; See also: Hepatitis C, Pharmacy Prior Authorization Forms, AHCCCS Medicaid, Pharmacy Program, UnitedHealthcare, Arizona (Accessed March 2018): <http://www.uhcommunityplan.com/health-professionals/az/pharmacy-program.html>
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- <sup>29</sup> Ibid. AHCCCS Medical Policy Manual (AMPM) Policy 320-N, Hepatitis C (HCV) Prior Authorization Requirements for Direct Acting Antiviral Medication Treatment: <https://www.azahcccs.gov/shared/Downloads/MedicalPolicyManual/300/320N.pdf>; Ibid. Mercy Care Pharmacy Prior Authorization Guidelines: <https://www.mercycareplan.com/providers/information/prescription-drug-benefits>
- <sup>30</sup> Ibid. Hepatitis C Medication Prior Authorization Request Form, UnitedHealthcare (Accessed March 2018): <https://www.uhcommunityplan.com/content/dam/communityplan/healthcareprofessionals/pharmacyprogram/AZ-Pharmacy/AZ-Hepatitis-C-Medications-Prior-Authorization-Form.pdf>; [http://www.uhcommunityplan.com/content/dam/communityplan/healthcareprofessionals/pharmacyprogram/Hepatitis\\_C.pdf](http://www.uhcommunityplan.com/content/dam/communityplan/healthcareprofessionals/pharmacyprogram/Hepatitis_C.pdf); See also: Hepatitis C, Pharmacy Prior Authorization Forms, AHCCCS Medicaid, Pharmacy Program, UnitedHealthcare, Arizona (Accessed June 2017/March 2018): <http://www.uhcommunityplan.com/health-professionals/az/pharmacy-program.html>
- <sup>31</sup> Ibid. Prior Authorization, Medical and Pharmacy, Provider Services, University of Arizona Health Plans (Accessed March 2018): <https://www.uahealthplans.com/provider-services/medical-and-pharmacy#Prior-Authorizations>
- <sup>32</sup> Medicaid Directors, National Association of Medicaid Directors (Accessed June 2017): <http://medicaiddirectors.org/about/medicaid-directors/>
- <sup>33</sup> Pharmacy Information, Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System: <https://www.azahcccs.gov/Members/Pharmacy/> (Accessed June 2017); Note to register for Public Testimony for a Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee Meeting: <http://www.providersynergies.com/services/medicaid/Arizona/form.asp?content=Testimony>