

Hepatitis C: State of Medicaid Access Report Card

California

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



Grade	Summary
<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; color: #8B4513;">A+</p>	<p>Liver Damage (Fibrosis) Restrictions: Fee-For-Service (FFS) does not have liver damage requirements. Prescription drugs used in the treatment of hepatitis C will be managed through the state's FFS program.</p> <p>Sobriety Restrictions: FFS do not have sobriety requirements.</p> <p>Prescriber Restrictions: FFS do not have prescriber requirements.</p> <p>Recommendations to Improve Patient Access:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain parity across FFS and MCOs. • Increase transparency regarding hepatitis C coverage requirements among MCOs. <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, and 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 will achieve coverage parity across the entire program. California's grade may be re-evaluated once the transition has been completed.</i></p>

Background

As of September 2020, California had 12,148,521 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 California plans to transition its prescription drug benefit entirely out of the MCO system and deliver it via the state's FFS program, however, this transition planned for April 1, 2021 has been delayed.⁶ Due to this transition, beneficiaries will have coverage parity for hepatitis c treatment regardless of what MCO they are enrolled in. California's report card may be re-evaluated once the transition has been completed.

State of Medicaid Hepatitis C Treatment Access

California has broadly open access to hepatitis C treatment. As of January 1, 2021, beneficiaries prescribed the state's preferred treatment regimens will 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.

Liver Damage (Fibrosis) Restrictions

California does not impose liver damage restrictions.

Sobriety Restrictions

California does not impose sobriety restrictions.

Provider Restrictions

California does not impose prescriber restrictions.

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¹ HepVu, California State Profile: <https://hepvu.org/state/california/>

² Medicaid and CHIP in California, By-State, Medicaid.gov (Accessed January 2021): <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/by-state/stateprofile.html?state=california>

³ Medi-Cal Managed Care, California Department of Health Care Services (Accessed January 2021): <http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/Pages/Medi-CalManagedCare.aspx>; See also: Medi-Cal Managed Care Program Fact Sheet – Managed Care Models, California Department of Health Care Services (November 2014): <http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/provgovpart/Documents/MMCDModelFactSheet.pdf>; See also: Total Medicaid MCOs, Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, March 2017: <http://kff.org/other/state-indicator/total-medicaid-mcos/> (Accessed June 2017)

⁴ Share of Medicaid Population Covered Under Different Delivery Systems, Medicaid Managed Care Market Tracker, Henry J Kaiser Family Foundation, July 2019 (Accessed January 2021):

<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 Ibid. Share of Medicaid Population Covered Under Different Delivery Systems

⁶ Important Update on Medi-Cal Rx, DHCS: https://medi-calrx.dhcs.ca.gov/cms/medicalrx/static-assets/documents/provider/bulletins/2021.02_A_Important_Update_on_Medi-Cal_Rx.pdf

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 Treatment Policy for the Management of Chronic Hepatitis C, DHCS: <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/Pages/HepatitisC.aspx>.

⁸ Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), Treatment Policy for the Management of Chronic Hepatitis C Updated and Effective March 30, 2020: <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/Documents/Chronic-Hep-C.pdf>

⁹ Department of Health Care Services Contacts (Accessed January 2021): http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/Pages/dhcs_contact.aspx