

Hepatitis C: State of Medicaid Access Report Card

Hawaii

Estimated Number of Individuals Living with Hepatitis C: 6,800¹



Grade	Summary
<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">B</p>	<p>Liver Damage (Fibrosis) Restrictions: Hawaii Medicaid FFS does not impose liver damage restrictions. Most Managed Care Organizations (MCOs), including Hawaii Medical Service Association, Ohana Health Plan, and UnitedHealthcare Community Plan, also do not impose liver damage restrictions. AlohaCare and Kaiser Permanente do not have publicly available hepatitis c coverage criteria.</p> <p>Sobriety Restrictions: Hawaii Medicaid FFS requires that providers evaluate alcohol use and urine toxicology results prior to treatment for adherence considerations. Hawaii Medical Service Association, and UnitedHealthcare Community plan impose similar screening requirements. Ohana Health Plan requires patients to be abstinent from alcohol or substance use and requires a negative toxicology screen within the past 100 days prior to initiation of treatment. AlohaCare and Kaiser Permanente do not have publicly available hepatitis c coverage criteria.</p> <p>Prescriber Restrictions: Hawaii Medicaid FFS requires that a prescription be written by or in consultation with a specialist. Hawaii Medical Service Association and Ohana Health Plan also require a specialist to prescribe or consult. UnitedHealthcare Community Plan appears to require a specialist prescription. AlohaCare and Kaiser Permanente do not have publicly available hepatitis c coverage criteria.</p> <p>Recommendations to Improve Patient Access:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove sobriety and prescriber requirements. • Ensure parity across the Medicaid program and ensure transparency so coverage criteria for FFS and MCO plans are publicly accessible. <p><i>Grade Rationale: Hawaii Medicaid has removed all liver damage requirements, but requires patients to be screened for substance use and requires a specialist consult. While some MCOs follow the FFS criteria, some MCOs impose more stringent restrictions and two MCO are lacking in publicly available coverage information.</i></p>

Background

As of May 2019, Hawaii had 329,264 individuals enrolled in the Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP).² Hawaii operates a Fee-For-Service (FFS) program and contracts with Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) known as the QUEST program.³ Most beneficiaries, 99 percent, are enrolled in QUEST which contracts with five health plans: AlohaCare, Hawaii Medical Service Association, Kaiser Permanente, Ohana Health Plan, and UnitedHealthcare Community Plan.⁴

State of Medicaid Hepatitis C Treatment Access

Hawaii Medicaid has made efforts to increase access to hepatitis C medications due in large part to effective patient advocacy. Previously, the state allowed each MCO plan to determine its hepatitis C coverage criteria.⁵ It also required severe liver damage (F3 or greater) to access treatment.⁶ However, a policy directive from Hawaii Med-Quest Division overseeing both the FFS and MCO programs stated patients can receive treatment regardless of liver damage levels.⁷ Additionally, the memorandum sets sobriety and prescriber requirements. The policy requires that providers evaluate alcohol use and urine toxicology results prior to treatment for adherence considerations. Additionally, a prescription must be written by or in consultation with a specialist.

Some MCOs have adopted the policy laid out in the memorandum, however requirements differ across MCO plans and transparency is lacking in two plans. Therefore, in practice, coverage parity does not exist across the FFS and MCO programs.

Hawaii Medical Service Association imposes the same requirements as FFS: the plan requires providers to consider alcohol and drug use for adherence, and requires that a specialist prescribe or consult, but does not impose liver damage restrictions.⁸

Ohana Health Plan appears to impose more stringent restrictions than the FFS policy. While Ohana does not impose liver damage restrictions, the plan requires patients to be abstinent from alcohol or substance use as evidenced by a negative toxicology screen within the past 100 days prior to initiation of treatment.⁹ Ohana also requires that a prescription is written by or in consultation with a specialist.

UnitedHealthcare Community Plan also appears to impose more stringent restrictions than the FFS policy. The plan follows the FFS policy inasmuch as it does not impose liver damage restrictions, and requires providers to consider alcohol use and urine toxicology use for adherence considerations.¹⁰ However, the plan appears to require a specialist or a primary care physician with expertise in treating hepatitis c and approved by the health plan to prescribe.

AlohaCare and Kaiser Permanente do not have publicly available hepatitis c coverage criteria.

Liver Damage (Fibrosis) Restrictions

Hawaii Medicaid FFS does not impose liver damage restrictions.

Hawaii Medical Service Association, Ohana Health Plan, and UnitedHealthcare Community Plan, also do not impose liver damage restrictions.

AlohaCare and Kaiser Permanente do not have publicly available hepatitis c coverage criteria.

Sobriety Restrictions

Hawaii Medicaid FFS requires that providers evaluate alcohol use and urine toxicology results prior to treatment for adherence considerations.

Hawaii Medical Service Association, and UnitedHealthcare Community plan impose similar screening requirements.

Ohana Health Plan requires patients to be abstinent from alcohol or substance use and requires a negative toxicology screen within the past 100 days prior to initiation of treatment.

AlohaCare and Kaiser Permanente do not have publicly available hepatitis c coverage criteria.

Prescriber Restrictions

Hawaii Medicaid FFS requires that a prescription be written by or in consultation with a specialist.

Hawaii Medical Service Association and Ohana Health Plan also require a specialist to prescribe or consult.

UnitedHealthcare Community Plan appears to require a specialist or a primary care physician with expertise in treating hepatitis c and approved by the health plan to prescribe.

AlohaCare and Kaiser Permanente do not have publicly available hepatitis c coverage criteria.

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

Medicaid Program¹¹: Judy Mohr-Peterson, Med-QUEST Division Administrator, Department of Human Services, State of Hawaii

601 Kamokila Blvd, Room 518, Kapolei, HI 96709-0190

Telephone: (808) 692-8050; Email Address: jmohrpeter@medicaid.dhs.state.hi.us

¹ HepVu, Hawaii State Profile: <https://hepvu.org/state/hawaii/>

² Medicaid and CHIP in Hawaii, By-State, Medicaid.gov: <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/by-state/stateprofile.html?state=hawaii>

³ Hawaii Medicaid Fee-For-Service Program: <https://www.benefits.gov/benefits/benefit-details/1254>; See also: Med-Quest Division (MQD): Health Insurance and Long-Term Care for Low-Income Adults and Families: <http://humanservices.hawaii.gov/mqd/>.

⁴ Choose a Health Plan, Hawaii Department of Human Services Med-QUEST Division: <https://medquest.hawaii.gov/en/members-applicants/get-started/health-plans.html>. See also Med-Quest Division (MQD): Health Insurance and Long-Term Care for Low-Income Adults and Families: <http://humanservices.hawaii.gov/mqd/>.

⁵ Virgil Dickson, *Reform Update: Medicaid Programs Crafting Limits on Harvoni Usage*, Modern Healthcare, October 21, 2014 (Accessed July 2017) <http://www.modernhealthcare.com/article/20141021/NEWS/310219962>

⁶ Ibid. Judy Mohr-Peterson, PhD, Med-Quest Division Administrator, Memorandum, Direct Acting Antiviral (DAAs) Medications for Treatment of Chronic Hepatitis C Infection

⁷ Direct Acting Antiviral (DAA) Medications For Treatment of Chronic Hepatitis C Infection, Hawaii Department of Human Services Med-QUEST Division:

<https://medquest.hawaii.gov/content/dam/formsanddocuments/provider-memos/qi-memos/qi-memos-2018/QI-1829-Direct-Acting-Antiviral-Medications-for-Treatment-of-Chronic-Hepatitis-C-Infection.PDF>. See also Provider Memos, Hawaii Department of Human Services Med-QUEST Division: <https://medquest.hawaii.gov/en/plans-providers/provider-memo.html>.

⁸ Hepatitis C (Direct Acting Antiviral Medications for Treatment of Hepatitis C) QUEST Integration, HMSA:

[https://hmsa.com/portal/provider/MM.04.036_Hepatitis_C_\(Direct_Acting_Antiviral_Medications_for_Treatment_of_Hepatitis_C\)_QI_60-day_notice_090119.pdf](https://hmsa.com/portal/provider/MM.04.036_Hepatitis_C_(Direct_Acting_Antiviral_Medications_for_Treatment_of_Hepatitis_C)_QI_60-day_notice_090119.pdf). See also Hepatitis C (Direct Acting Antiviral Medications for Treatment of Hepatitis C), HMSA provider Resource Center: https://hmsa.com/portal/provider/zav_pel.aa.DIR.505.htm.

⁹ PDL Exception Criteria Mavyret (P.201), Ohana Health Plan: <https://fm.formularynavigator.com/FormularyNavigator/DocumentManager/Download?clientDocumentId=PpatPQo2mkCWhxzHar2TGQ>.

¹⁰ Hepatitis C Medications-Hawaii Prior Authorization Request Form, UnitedHealthcare Community Plan:

<https://www.uhcprovider.com/content/provider/en/viewer.html?file=%2Fcontent%2Fdam%2Fprovider%2Fdocs%2Fpublic%2Fprior-auth%2Fuhccp-pharmacy-forms%2Fh-1%2FHI-Hepatitis-C-Medications-Prior-Authorization-Form.pdf>.

¹¹ Medicaid Directors, National Association of Medicaid Directors: <http://medicaiddirectors.org/about/medicaid-directors/>