

Hepatitis C: State of Medicaid Access Report Card

Hawaii



Grade	Recommendations to Improve Patient Access
A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure transparency and parity across FFS and MCOs regarding HCV coverage criteria.

State Overview

As of October 2022, 453,026 individuals were enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP.¹ As of 2016, an estimated 6,700 people were living with HCV in Hawaii.² Hawaii operates a Fee-For-Service (FFS) program and contracts with managed care organizations (MCOs) through what is known as the QUEST program.³ Most beneficiaries, 99.9 percent,⁴ are enrolled in QUEST which contracts with 5 MCOs: AlohaCare,⁵ Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA),⁶ Kaiser Permanente,⁷ 'Ohana Health Plan,⁸ and UnitedHealthcare Community Plan.⁹ Each MCO maintains its own preferred drug list.¹⁰

Deductions		Policy				
Prior Authorization		Prior authorization is not required “for treatment regimens following the AASLD-IDSAs HCV Guidance.” ¹¹				
Fibrosis Restrictions		Hawaii Medicaid does not impose fibrosis restrictions. ¹²				
Substance Use Restrictions		Hawaii Medicaid does not impose substance use restrictions. The criteria states that “providers should continue to work closely with patients to address any issues affecting compliance. Good compliance and completion of a treatment course is essential for eradicating Hepatitis C. However, alcohol use and substance abuse are not contraindications to DAA therapy.” ¹³				
Prescriber Restrictions		Hawaii Medicaid allows approved primary care providers to prescribe HCV treatment for patients who are eligible for simplified treatment. “Qualified providers include but are not limited to those who complete the Hepatitis C Echo series and/or work in collaboration with a specialist. In addition, primary care providers who do not meet [the criteria] above can request to become approved providers.” For patients who have medical complexities, prescriptions must be written by or in consultation with a specialist. ¹⁴				
Retreatment Restrictions		Hawaii Medicaid does not appear to impose restrictions on retreatment. ¹⁵				
Access in Managed Care	-8	While the Medicaid FFS guidance states that “QI health plan policies for the coverage of chronic HCV DAA medications shall not be more restrictive than the Medicaid FFS guidelines,” all MCOs appear to require prior authorization. This report card will be re-evaluated in April 2023 to assess MCO compliance with this change. AlohaCare appears to require prescribers to submit a separate E-Consult form to demonstrate they have consulted with a specialist. ¹⁶ HMSA requires patients to agree to “no alcohol or illicit drug use during the course of treatment,” does not cover retreatment for patients who were re-infected or whose prior treatment failed due to poor adherence to medication or substance use during treatment, and prohibits refills for lost or stolen medication. ¹⁷ Ohana appears to require specialist involvement, as well as documentation of chronic HCV and genotype. The prior authorization form states that “patients with active substance or alcohol use disorders should be considered for therapy on a case-by-case basis, and care should be coordinated with substance use treatment specialists.” Ohana requires HCV RNA viral load within the past 90 days, urine toxicology within the past 30 days, and provider attestation of adherence counseling. ¹⁸ UnitedHealthcare requires that treatment be prescribed by or in consultation with a specialist. The prior authorization form also requires documentation of genotype, chronic HCV, and assessment of adherence as well as substance use via urine toxicology, and baseline HCV RNA within three months of the request. ¹⁹ Kaiser Permanente does not publish HCV treatment coverage criteria. ²⁰				
Additional Restrictions		Hawaii Medicaid does not impose additional restrictions. ²¹				
Total Deductions	-8	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Total Score [100-Deductions]</td> <td style="text-align: center;">92</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Grade</td> <td style="text-align: center;">A</td> </tr> </table>	Total Score [100-Deductions]	92	Grade	A
Total Score [100-Deductions]	92	Grade	A			

Contact Your State Officials

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Key Sources

Preferred Drug List: [Hawaii Fee-For-Services Formulary Search](#)

Clinical Criteria: [Hawaii DHS, Memorandum: DAA Medications for Treatment of Chronic Hepatitis C Infection \(Dec. 30, 2022\)](#)

Prior Authorization Form: Hawaii Medicaid FFS does not publish prior authorization form for hepatitis C treatment.

¹ Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services: Medicaid & CHIP in Hawaii, <https://perma.cc/5UYC-Z3NK>.

² HepVu, Local Data: Hawaii, <https://perma.cc/VYP8-LJXD>.

³ State of Hawai'i DHS, Med-QUEST Division, Health Plans, <https://perma.cc/32QM-R96W>.

⁴ Kaiser Family Foundation, Share of Medicaid Population Covered Under Different Delivery Systems (Jul. 1, 2022), <https://perma.cc/EMN8-QR8B>.

⁵ AlohaCare Formulary, Antivirals – Drugs for Infections, Hepatitis C Agent – Combinations, <https://perma.cc/S6S9-ZN3D>; see also AlohaCare Form for Mavyret, <https://perma.cc/QTG6-PTS8>; AlohaCare Form for Epclusa, <https://perma.cc/G2MA-6U2H>.

⁶ HMSA, Hepatitis C (DAA Medications for Treatment of Hepatitis C) QUEST Integration, <https://perma.cc/MC88-M4ZE>.

⁷ Kaiser Permanente, Benefits, <https://perma.cc/66AG-3W53>.

⁸ Ohana Health Plan, Prior Authorization Request Form for Hepatitis C Treatment (2015).

⁹ UnitedHealthcare, Hepatitis C Medications – Hawaii, <https://perma.cc/9HQT-5FAT>.

¹⁰ State of Hawai'i DHS Med-Quest Division, MCO Formulary Search, <https://perma.cc/WGH3-CAYS>.

¹¹ Clinical Criteria.

¹² Clinical Criteria.

¹³ Clinical Criteria.

¹⁴ Clinical Criteria.

¹⁵ Clinical Criteria.

¹⁶ AlohaCare, Provider Advisory: AlohaCare E-Consult Program for QUEST Integration for PCPS and Specialists (Feb. 15, 2022), <https://perma.cc/H9V9-BY2X>.

¹⁷ HMSA, Hepatitis C (DAA Medications for Treatment of Hepatitis C) QUEST Integration, <https://perma.cc/MC88-M4ZE>.

¹⁸ Ohana Health Plan, Prior Authorization Request Form for Hepatitis C Treatment (2023), <https://perma.cc/C4B2-DKNE>.

¹⁹ UnitedHealthcare, Hepatitis C Medications – Hawaii, <https://perma.cc/9HQT-5FAT>.

²⁰ Kaiser Permanente, Pharmacy, <https://healthy.kaiserpermanente.org/hawaii/community-providers/pharmacy>.

²¹ Clinical Criteria.

²² Medicaid Directors, National Association of Medicaid Directors: <http://medicaiddirectors.org/about/medicaid-directors/>

²³ Pharmacy, Med-QUEST Division, State of Hawaii Department of Human Services (Accessed December 2021): <https://perma.cc/CX9Z-UP32>.