

Hepatitis C: State of Medicaid Access Report Card

Hawaii



Grade	Recommendations to Improve Patient Access
D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove prior authorization for HCV treatment. Remove substance use counseling requirement. Remove requirement for prescribers to consult with a specialist. Ensure transparency and parity across FFS and MCOs regarding HCV coverage criteria. Remove additional restrictions as described below.

State Overview

As of February 2022, 428,256 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

Hawaii Medicaid FFS does not publish a preferred drug list as a discrete document, but provides a formulary lookup.¹¹

Deductions		Policy				
Prior Authorization	-8	Prior authorization is required for all HCV treatment regimens. ¹²				
Fibrosis Restrictions	0	Hawaii Medicaid does not impose fibrosis restrictions. ¹³				
Substance Use Restrictions	-4	Hawaii Medicaid requires the prescriber to counsel patients regarding substance use prior to treatment: "Alcohol use and substance use are not absolute contraindications to DAA therapy," but the prescriber should evaluate the patient's ability to adhere to medication by considering "alcohol use and urine toxicology results." ¹⁴				
Prescriber Restrictions	-8	Hawaii Medicaid requires a prescription by or in consultation with a hepatologist, gastroenterologist, infectious disease specialist, HIV specialist, or "primary care physicians with expertise in the treatment of hepatitis C who are approved by the health plan." ¹⁵				
Retreatment Restrictions	0	Hawaii Medicaid does not appear to impose restrictions on retreatment. ¹⁶				
Access in Managed Care	-8	AlohaCare, HMSA, Ohana, and UnitedHealthcare impose more stringent requirements than FFS. AlohaCare requires documentation of genotype, ¹⁷ and requires prescribers to submit a separate E-Consult form to demonstrate they have consulted with a specialist. ¹⁸ (However, AlohaCare does not appear to impose any adherence or substance use requirements. ¹⁹) 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. ²⁰ Ohana requires urine toxicology within the past 30 days. ²¹ UnitedHealthcare requires documentation of genotype. ²² Kaiser Permanente does not publish HCV treatment coverage criteria. ²³				
Additional Restrictions	-6	Hawaii Medicaid imposes additional restrictions as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RNA result must be collected within 3 months of request for treatment (i.e. time-based lab requirement) Documentation of chronic HCV infection. Documentation that the patient is "compliant with treatment . . . Patient should demonstrate good compliance with medications and appointments such as with specialty pharmacy, providers, and laboratory blood draws." Additionally, providers must assess "conditions that may impact adherence," including "mental health conditions," prior to the patient starting treatment.²⁴ 				
Total Deductions	-34	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Total Score [100-Deductions]</td> <td style="text-align: center;">66</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Grade</td> <td style="text-align: center;">D</td> </tr> </table>	Total Score [100-Deductions]	66	Grade	D
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Grade	D					

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 \(Dec. 31, 2018\)](#)

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

¹ CMS: Medicaid & CHIP in Hawaii, <https://perma.cc/Z5U8-NV45>.

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, <https://perma.cc/47VJ-UBP7>.

⁵ AlohaCare Formulary, Antivirals – Drugs for Infections, Hepatitis C Agent – Combinations, <https://perma.cc/S6S9-ZN3D>.

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 Hawaii FFS Formulary Search.

¹² Clinical Criteria.

¹³ Clinical Criteria.

¹⁴ Clinical Criteria.

¹⁵ Clinical Criteria.

¹⁶ Clinical Criteria.

¹⁷ AlohaCare, Approval Criteria for Epclusa (sofosbuvir/velpatasvir), <https://perma.cc/FH4B-BUEF>.

¹⁸ AlohaCare, Provider Advisory: AlohaCare E-Consult Program for QUEST Integration for PCPS and Specialists (Feb. 15, 2022), <https://perma.cc/H9V9-BY2X>.

¹⁹ AlohaCare, Approval Criteria for Epclusa (sofosbuvir/velpatasvir), <https://perma.cc/FH4B-BUEF>.

²⁰ HMSA, Hepatitis C (DAA Medications for Treatment of Hepatitis C) QUEST Integration, <https://perma.cc/MC88-M4ZE>.

²¹ Ohana Health Plan, Prior Authorization Request Form for Hepatitis C Treatment (2015).

²² UnitedHealthcare, Hepatitis C Medications – Hawaii, <https://perma.cc/9HQT-5FAT>.

²³ Kaiser Permanente, Benefits, <https://perma.cc/66AG-3W53>.

²⁴ Clinical Criteria.

²⁵ Medicaid Directors, National Association of Medicaid Directors: <http://medicaiddirectors.org/about/medicaid-directors/>

²⁶ Pharmacy, Med-QUEST Division, State of Hawaii Department of Human Services (Accessed December 2021): <https://perma.cc/CX9Z-UP32>.