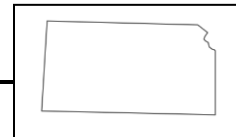


Hepatitis C: State of Medicaid Access Report Card

Kansas



Estimated Number of Individuals Living with Hepatitis C: 14,600¹

Grade	Summary
<h1>A-</h1>	<p>Liver Damage (Fibrosis) Restrictions: KanCare does not impose liver damage restrictions.</p> <p>Sobriety Restrictions: KanCare does not impose sobriety restrictions.</p> <p>Prescriber Restrictions: KanCare only requires a prescription to be written by or in consultation with a gastroenterologist, hepatologist, or infectious disease specialist if the patient has been treated previously.</p> <p>Recommendations to Improve Patient Access:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eliminate prescribing requirements. • Remove prior authorizations for preferred agents. <p><i>Grade Rationale: Kansas does not impose fibrosis or sobriety restrictions, and has full parity across its Medicaid program. Kansas does, however, still require that a prescription be written by or in consultation with a specialist if the patient has been treated previously. For that reason, a minus has been added to the state's grade.</i></p>

Background

In October 2021, Kansas had 494,522 individuals enrolled in Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP).² The Kansas Department of Health and Environment and the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services administer the Medicaid program, called KanCare. KanCare is administered through three KanCare-contracted managed care organizations (MCOs): Aetna Better Health of Kansas, Sunflower Health Plan, and UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of Kansas.⁵

State of Medicaid Hepatitis C Treatment Access

Significant progress began in 2018, when Kansas Medicaid removed and lessened previously restrictive criteria relating to liver damage (fibrosis) and substance use history as part of a settlement that was agreed to in a lawsuit brought by the ACLU of Kansas.⁷ Since then, the state has made additional changes to improve Medicaid access to hepatitis C treatment.

KanCare Medicaid does not impose any fibrosis or sobriety restrictions with respect to treatment access.⁸ The criteria for retreatment includes that it must be prescribed by or in consultation with a hepatologist, gastroenterologist, or infectious disease specialist.⁹

Treatment is approved up to the total number of approved weeks per FDA labeling. The KanCare preferred drug list includes Mavyret and generic sofosbuvir/velpatasvir tabs as preferred medications and Epclusa, Harvoni, Sovaldi, Viekira Pak, and Zepatier as non-preferred medications.¹²

KanCare maintains a universal prior authorization (PA) form that the MCOs utilize. The PA form links directly to the KanCare criteria and the KanCare preferred drug list, and includes each MCO’s logo and pharmacy and medical PA department contact information.¹⁴ Additionally, Aetna Better Health of Kansas,¹⁵ Sunflower Health Plan,¹⁶ and UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of Kansas¹⁷ each direct providers seeking PA forms and coverage criteria to the KanCare website and PA forms.

Liver Damage (Fibrosis) Restrictions

KanCare does not require a minimum level of liver damage.¹⁹

Sobriety Restrictions

KanCare does not impose any sobriety restrictions.²¹

Prescriber Restrictions

For most people, KanCare does not impose prescriber restrictions. However, KanCare does require a prescription to be written by or in consultation with a gastroenterologist, hepatologist, or infectious disease specialist if the patient has been treated previously.²²

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

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¹ HepVu, Kansas State Profile (Accessed December 2021): <https://hepvu.org/state/kansas/>.

² Kansas Medical Assistance Report, Fiscal Year 2022 (July 2021-October 2021), Kansas Department of Health and Education: https://www.kdheks.gov/hcf/medicaid_reports/download/MARFY2022.pdf.

⁵ Health Plan Information, KanCare Medicaid for Kansas: <https://www.kancare.ks.gov/providers/health-plan-information>.

⁷ Notice for Medicaid Hep C Patient, ACLU Kansas (Accessed December 2021): <https://www.aclukansas.org/en/notice-medicaid-hepc-patients>.

⁸ Criteria for Prior Authorization, Hepatitis C Agents, Kansas Department of Health and Education (Last updated April 21, 2021): https://kdheks.gov/hcf/pharmacy/PA_Criteria/Hepatitis_C_PA_Criteria.pdf.

⁹ Ibid. Criteria for Prior Authorization, Hepatitis C Agents, Kansas Department of Health and Education (Last updated April 21, 2021).

¹² Preferred Drug List, KanCare, Kansas Department of Health and Environment (Last updated November 1, 2021): <http://www.kdheks.gov/hcf/pharmacy/download/PDLList.pdf>.

¹⁴ Hepatitis C Agents Prior Authorization Form, Kansas Department of Health and Environment (Last updated October 2021): http://www.kdheks.gov/hcf/pharmacy/pdl_authorization_forms/Hepatitis_C_Agents.pdf.

¹⁵ Pharmacy Prior Authorization Forms, Aetna Better Health of Kansas (Accessed December 13, 2021): <https://www.aetnabetterhealth.com/kansas/providers/pharmacy/forms>.

¹⁶ Pharmacy, Sunflower Health Plan (Accessed December 13, 2021): <https://www.sunflowerhealthplan.com/providers/pharmacy.html>.

¹⁷ Pharmacy Resources and Physician Administered Drugs, UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of Kansas (Accessed December 13, 2021): <https://www.uhcprovider.com/en/health-plans-by-state/kansas-health-plans/ks-comm-plan-home/ks-cp-pharmacy.html>.

¹⁹ Criteria for Prior Authorization, Hepatitis C Agents, Kansas Department of Health and Environment (Last updated April 21, 2021): https://kdheks.gov/hcf/pharmacy/PA_Criteria/Hepatitis_C_PA_Criteria.pdf.

²¹ Ibid. Criteria for Prior Authorization, Hepatitis C Agents, Kansas Department of Health and Environment (Last updated April 21, 2021).

²² Ibid. Criteria for Prior Authorization, Hepatitis C Agents, Kansas Department of Health and Environment (Last updated April 21, 2021).

²³ Kansas, Medicaid Director, National Association of State Medicaid Directors (Accessed December 2021): <http://medicaiddirectors.org/about/medicaid-directors/>.