

Hepatitis C: State of Medicaid Access Report Card

Louisiana



Grade	Recommendations to Improve Patient Access
A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove requirement for submission of chronic hepatitis C diagnosis code. Continue to ensure broad access to HCV treatment.

State Overview

As of October 2023, 1,789,466 individuals were enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP.¹ It is estimated that as of 2016, 50,000 people were living with HCV in Louisiana.² Louisiana Medicaid, known as Healthy Louisiana, operates a fee-for-service (FFS) program and contracts with managed care organizations (MCOs).³ Most beneficiaries, 91 percent, are enrolled in a MCO; the remaining 9 percent participate in FFS.⁴ Healthy Louisiana contracts with six MCOs to provide services to beneficiaries, including: Aetna Better Health (Aetna), AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana (AmeriHealth), Healthy Blue, Humana Healthy Horizons, Louisiana Healthcare Connections, and UnitedHealthcare Community Plan (UHC).⁵ As a result of the modified pharmaceutical subscription model for HCV treatment, all MCOs follow the Louisiana single PDL and criteria.⁶ Additionally, as of October 2023, the Magellan Medicaid Administration manages pharmacy benefits for all Medicaid health plans, including MCOs.⁷

The Louisiana Medicaid Preferred Drug List lists sofosbuvir/velpatasvir (generic Epclusa) as the preferred regimen.⁸

Deductions		Policy
Prior Authorization		Prior authorization is not required for the preferred regimen (sofosbuvir/velpatasvir). ⁹
Fibrosis Restrictions		Louisiana Medicaid does not impose fibrosis restrictions. ¹⁰
Substance Use Restrictions		Louisiana Medicaid does not impose substance use restrictions. ¹¹
Prescriber Restrictions		Louisiana Medicaid does not impose prescriber restrictions. ¹²
Retreatment Restrictions		Louisiana Medicaid does not impose undue retreatment restrictions. ¹³
Access in Managed Care		As a result of the modified pharmaceutical subscription model for HCV treatment, all MCOs follow the Louisiana single PDL and criteria. ¹⁴
Additional Restrictions	-2	Louisiana Medicaid imposes additional restrictions for preferred treatment ¹⁵ : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Documentation of chronic HCV infection. Pharmacy claims for all agents (including sofosbuvir/velpatasvir) must be submitted with the diagnosis code for chronic hepatitis C.¹⁶ Eligibility is verified via a point-of-sale edit. Point of sale edits are “safety limitations that are automatically verified through computer programming at the time that a prescription claim is submitted at the pharmacy.”¹⁷
Total Deductions -2		Total Score [100-Deductions] 98
		Grade A

Contact Your State Officials

Medicaid Office¹⁸: Kimberly Sullivan, Interim Medicaid Executive Director

Email Address: kimberly.sullivan@la.gov

Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee¹⁹: Medicaid Pharmaceutical & Therapeutics Committee, Louisiana Department of Health

P. O. Box 91030, Baton Rouge, LA 70821; Telephone: (225) 342-7878; Email Address: healthy@la.gov

Key Sources

Preferred Drug List: [Louisiana Medicaid, Preferred Drug List \(Jan. 1, 2024\)](#)

Clinical Criteria: [Louisiana Medicaid, Hepatitis C Direct Acting Antiviral Criteria \(Apr. 2022\)](#)

Prior Authorization Form (for Non-Preferred DAAs): [Louisiana Medicaid, DAA Medication Therapy Worksheet \(October 2023\)](#)

Patient Treatment Agreement (for Non-Preferred DAAs): [Louisiana Treatment Agreement for Louisiana Medicaid Recipients \(October 2023\)](#)

¹ Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Medicaid & CHIP in Louisiana, <https://perma.cc/3DPC-9SJX>.

² HepVu, Local Data: Louisiana, <https://perma.cc/85GV-9WX8>.

³ Louisiana Department of Health, Healthy Louisiana, <https://perma.cc/82WX-LG99>.

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

⁵ Healthy Louisiana, Compare Plans, <https://perma.cc/GV93-N3QG>.

⁶ Preferred Drug List; see also Louisiana Department of Health, Managed Care Executed Contracts, <https://perma.cc/7T5U-ERFC>.

⁷ Magellan Medicaid Administration Pharmacy Portal, <https://perma.cc/MM8N-GDKL>.

⁸ Preferred Drug List.

⁹ Clinical Criteria.

¹⁰ Clinical Criteria.

¹¹ Clinical Criteria.

¹² Clinical Criteria.

¹³ Clinical Criteria.

¹⁴ Preferred Drug List; see also Louisiana Department of Health, Managed Care Executed Contracts, <https://perma.cc/7T5U-ERFC>.

¹⁵ Clinical Criteria.

¹⁶ Louisiana Medicaid, Point of Sale Edits: Infectious Disorders – Hepatitis C Agents – Direct Acting Antiviral Agents (October 2022), <https://perma.cc/5VP5-JTAK>; see also Louisiana Medicaid, Medications Requiring ICD-10 Diagnosis Codes (Jan. 2023), <https://perma.cc/5UTG-SK47>.

¹⁷ Louisiana Medicaid, Point of Sale Edits: Infectious Disorders – Hepatitis C Agents – Direct Acting Antiviral Agents (October 2022), <https://perma.cc/5VP5-JTAK>.

¹⁸ Louisiana Department of Health, Medicaid Leadership, <https://perma.cc/6EFM-9DW3>.

¹⁹ Louisiana Department of Health, Medicaid Pharmaceutical & Therapeutics Committee, <https://perma.cc/3BLL-6BEU>.