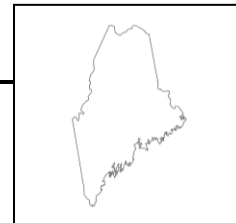


Hepatitis C: State of Medicaid Access Report Card

Maine

Estimated Number of Individuals Living with Hepatitis C: 7,000¹



Grade	Summary
<p>B+</p>	<p>Liver Damage (Fibrosis) Restrictions: Maine does not impose liver damage restrictions.</p> <p>Sobriety Restrictions: Maine does not impose sobriety restrictions.</p> <p>Prescriber Restrictions: Maine does not impose prescriber restrictions for patients who qualify for simplified treatment. For patients with certain clinical conditions, Maine requires a prescription be written by or in consultation with a specialist within the past year.</p> <p>Recommendations to Improve Patient Access:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove remaining prescriber restrictions. • Maintain transparency regarding hepatitis C coverage criteria. • Remove prior authorization for patients who qualify for simplified treatment. <p><i>Grade Rationale: Maine has made great progress in expanding access to hepatitis C coverage. Maine has no liver damage restrictions and no longer requires a minimum period of sobriety prior to treatment. However, for some patients, Maine continues to require a prescription be written by or in consultation with a specialist within the past year, creating a physician bottleneck to treatment. Additionally, Maine limits the first prescription fill to a 14-day supply. The B+ grade recognizes that these restrictions still thwart access.</i></p>

Background

Maine’s Medicaid program is called MaineCare. As of May 2021, Maine had 320,251 beneficiaries enrolled in Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP).² Sixty-three percent of MaineCare beneficiaries participate in the Primary Care Case Management (PCCM), and 37% participate in Fee-For-Service (FFS).³ Under the PCCM program, beneficiaries either choose or are assigned to a primary care provider (doctor, nurse, physician assistant or health care clinic) to manage their care.⁴ Maine does not contract with any managed care organizations (MCOs).

State of Medicaid Hepatitis C Treatment Access

MaineCare requires prior authorization (PA) to access hepatitis C treatment. Coverage requirements apply to all beneficiaries. MaineCare does not stipulate any liver damage requirements on the PA form.⁵ At the September 2018 meeting of the Maine Drug Utilization Review Board, the Board unanimously decided to remove the section of the PA form that required six months of sobriety as proved by a urine screen.⁶ The current PA does not inquire about alcohol or substance use at all.⁷ Any provider may prescribe treatment to patients who qualify for “simplified treatment.”¹⁰

PA is approved initially for up to 12 weeks of therapy and only a 14-day-supply is allowed for the first prescription fill.¹¹ According to a document linked in the MaineCare Preferred Drug List (PDL), documentation of adherence must be submitted to secure approval for continuation of therapy beyond 12 weeks; however, this requirement does not appear in MaineCare’s most recent PA form.¹² Maine’s preferred drug list includes preferred Direct-Acting Antiviral (DAA) regimens: Mavyret and sofosbuvir/velpatasvir; and non-preferred regimens: Daklinza, Eplclusa, Harvoni, Sovaldi, Viekira Pak/XR, Vosevi, and Zepatier.¹³

Liver Damage (Fibrosis) Restrictions

MaineCare requests the patient’s liver damage but does not stipulate any minimum level of damage.¹⁴

Sobriety Restrictions

MaineCare does not impose sobriety restrictions.¹⁵

MaineCare does not impose prescriber restrictions for patients who qualify for “simplified treatment.”¹⁶ Patients who do not qualify for simplified treatment must obtain a prescription written by or in consultation with a gastroenterologist, hepatologist, infectious disease specialist or other hepatitis specialist.¹⁷ The consultation must be within the past year and provide documentation of the recommended regimen.¹⁸

Patients do not qualify for “simplified treatment” if any of the following clinical factors apply: prior hepatitis C treatment, cirrhosis, HIV or hepatitis B surface antigen positive, current pregnancy, known or suspected hepatocellular carcinoma, or prior liver transplantation.¹⁹

Points of Contact for Questions & Concerns about Maine’s State of Medicaid Hepatitis C Access

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

² Medicaid.gov; Medicaid & CHIP in Maine (Accessed December 2021): <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/by-state/stateprofile.html?state=maine>.

³ Share of Medicaid Population Covered Under Different Delivery Systems, State Health Facts, The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation (Updated July 2021): <http://kff.org/medicaid/state-indicator/share-of-medicaid-population-covered-under-different-delivery-systems/?currentTimeframe=0&sortModel=-%7B%22collid%22:%22Location%22,%22sort%22:%22asc%22%7D>.

⁴ MaineCare Member Handbook, MaineCare Services, Office of the Department of Health and Human Services, December 2021, at page 38:

https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/oms/pdfs_doc/member/mainecare_mbr_handbook.pdf.

⁵ MaineCare/MEDEL Prior Authorization Form, Hepatitis C Treatment, DHHS, State of Maine (Updated: June 2021): <http://mainecarepdl.org/sites/default/files/ghs-files/prior-authorization-forms/2021-06-10/mainecarehep-c-tpa-form10700-updated-jun-08-2021-final-bnw-pdf.pdf>.

⁶ Maine Department of Health and Human Services, MaineCare Services Pharmacy Unit, Maine DUR Board Meeting minutes from September 11, 2018: <http://www.mainecarepdl.org/sites/default/files/ghs-files/dur-minutes/2018-10-12/mainedur09112018meetingminutes.approved.pdf>.

⁷ MaineCare/MEDEL Prior Authorization Form, Hepatitis C Treatment, DHHS, State of Maine (Updated: June 2021): <http://mainecarepdl.org/sites/default/files/ghs-files/prior-authorization-forms/2021-06-10/mainecarehep-c-tpa-form10700-updated-jun-08-2021-final-bnw-pdf.pdf>.

¹⁰ Ibid. MaineCare/MEDEL Prior Authorization Form, Hepatitis C Treatment, DHHS, State of Maine (Updated: June 2021).

¹¹ Ibid. MaineCare/MEDEL Prior Authorization Form, Hepatitis C Treatment, DHHS, State of Maine (Updated: June 2021).

¹² Physician’s Summarized PDL, MaineCare, PDL Effective November 29, 2021: <http://mainecarepdl.org/sites/default/files/ghs-files/pdl/2021-11-29/pdlmainecriteria-11292021final.pdf>; See also Ibid. MaineCare/MEDEL Prior Authorization Form, Hepatitis C Treatment, DHHS, State of Maine (Updated: June 2021).

¹³ Ibid. Physician’s Summarized PDL, MaineCare, PDL Effective November 29, 2021: <http://mainecarepdl.org/sites/default/files/ghs-files/pdl/2021-11-29/pdlmainecriteria-11292021final.pdf>.

¹⁴ Ibid. MaineCare/MEDEL Prior Authorization Form, Hepatitis C Treatment, DHHS, State of Maine (Updated: June 2021).

¹⁵ Ibid. MaineCare/MEDEL Prior Authorization Form, Hepatitis C Treatment, DHHS, State of Maine (Updated: June 2021).

¹⁶ Ibid. MaineCare/MEDEL Prior Authorization Form, Hepatitis C Treatment, DHHS, State of Maine (Updated: June 2021).

¹⁷ Ibid. MaineCare/MEDEL Prior Authorization Form, Hepatitis C Treatment, DHHS, State of Maine (Updated: June 2021).

¹⁸ Ibid. MaineCare/MEDEL Prior Authorization Form, Hepatitis C Treatment, DHHS, State of Maine (Updated: June 2021).

¹⁹ Ibid. MaineCare/MEDEL Prior Authorization Form, Hepatitis C Treatment, DHHS, State of Maine (Updated: June 2021).

²² MaineCare Services, Contact Us (Accessed December 2021): <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/oms/contacts.shtml>.

²³ MaineCare Services, Contact Information (Accessed December 2021): <http://www.mainecarepdl.org/content/contact-information>.