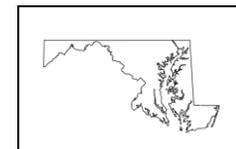


# Hepatitis C: State of Medicaid Access Report Card

## Maryland



Grade	Recommendations to Improve Patient Access
<b>C</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remove prior authorization for HCV treatment.</li> <li>Remove retreatment restrictions.</li> <li>Ensure transparency and parity across FFS and MCOs regarding HCV coverage criteria.</li> <li>Remove additional restrictions as described below.</li> </ul>

### State Overview

As of October 2023, 1,671,274 individuals were enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP.<sup>1</sup> It is estimated that as of 2016, 40,600 people were living with HCV in Maryland.<sup>2</sup> Maryland's Medicaid program operates a Fee-For-Service (FFS) program and a managed care program, HealthChoice.<sup>3</sup> Most beneficiaries, 90 percent, are enrolled in HealthChoice, and the remaining 10 percent participate in FFS.<sup>4</sup> HealthChoice contracts with nine managed care organizations (MCOs) including Aetna Better Health, Wellpoint Maryland (formerly Amerigroup Community Care), CareFirst BlueCross Blue Shield Community Health Plan Maryland, Jai Medical Systems, Kaiser Permanente, Maryland Physicians Care, MedStar Family Choice, Priority Partners, and UnitedHealthcare Community Plan.<sup>5</sup>

The Maryland Medicaid Preferred Drug List lists Mavyret, sofosbuvir/velpatasvir, and Vosevi as preferred regimens.<sup>6</sup>

Deductions		Policy
Prior Authorization	-8	Prior authorization is required for all HCV treatment regimens. <sup>7</sup>
Fibrosis Restrictions	0	Maryland Medicaid does not impose fibrosis restrictions. <sup>8</sup>
Substance Use Restrictions	0	Maryland Medicaid does not impose substance use restrictions. <sup>9</sup>
Prescriber Restrictions	0	Maryland Medicaid does not impose prescriber restrictions. <sup>10</sup>
Retreatment Restrictions	-8	Maryland Medicaid appears to impose retreatment restrictions based on a patient's ability to adhere to medication. <sup>11</sup> A sample "Hepatitis C Enhanced Management Plan" available on the website requires patients to attest the following: "The treatment plan has been discussed with the patient and the patient agrees to abide by it. The patient is aware that if this plan is not followed, <i>it may result in cessation of Medicaid payment for current and future hepatitis C treatments.</i> "
Access in Managed Care	-8	One MCO, Priority Partners, may impose more stringent requirements than FFS. Priority Partners appears to require a prescription by or in consult with a specialist. A policy document for Priority Partners states, "All coverage request[s] are subject to current Maryland Department of Health clinical criteria." <sup>12</sup> However, the same document links to prior authorization forms that require a prescription by or in consult with a specialist. <sup>13</sup>  Aetna, <sup>14</sup> Wellpoint Maryland, <sup>15</sup> CareFirst, <sup>16</sup> Jai Medical Systems, <sup>17</sup> Kaiser, <sup>18</sup> Maryland Physicians Care, <sup>19</sup> MedStar Family Choice, <sup>20</sup> and United Healthcare <sup>21</sup> impose the same requirements as FFS.
Additional Restrictions	-6	Maryland Medicaid imposes additional restrictions as follows <sup>22</sup> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HCV RNA must be collected within 180 days of prior authorization (unless cirrhotic, then within 90 days).</li> <li>Documentation of chronic HCV infection.</li> <li>Documentation of HCV genotype.</li> </ul>
<b>Total Deductions</b>	<b>-30</b>	<b>Total Score [100-Deductions]</b> <b>70</b>
		<b>Grade</b> <b>C</b>

## Contact Your State Officials

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### Medicaid Office<sup>23</sup>: Ryan Moran, Deputy Secretary for Health Care Financing and Medicaid Director, Maryland Medicaid Administration

201 West Preston Street, Room 525, Baltimore, Maryland, 21201; Telephone (410) 767-5343

### Maryland Pharmacy Program Office<sup>24</sup>:

201 West Preston Street, Room 525, Baltimore, Maryland, 21201; Email: mdh.marylandpdlquestions@maryland.gov<sup>25</sup>

## Key Sources

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

**Clinical Criteria:** [Maryland Department of Health Hepatitis C Clinical Criteria \(Jul. 26, 2022\)](#)

**Prior Authorization Form:** [Maryland Department of Health Hepatitis C Prior Authorization Form \(Nov. 20, 2021\)](#)

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<sup>1</sup> Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Medicaid and CHIP in Maryland, <https://perma.cc/4UXS-C6BS>.

<sup>2</sup> HepVu, Local Data: Maryland, <https://perma.cc/X7WU-58SC>.

<sup>3</sup> Maryland Department of Health, HealthChoice, <https://health.maryland.gov/mmcp/healthchoice/pages/Home.aspx>.

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

<sup>5</sup> Maryland Department of Health, HealthChoice (accessed Jan. 2023), <https://perma.cc/N9WS-J6FE>.

<sup>6</sup> Preferred Drug List.

<sup>7</sup> Prior Authorization Form.

<sup>8</sup> Clinical Criteria.

<sup>9</sup> Clinical Criteria.

<sup>10</sup> Clinical Criteria.

<sup>11</sup> Clinical Criteria.

<sup>12</sup> Johns Hopkins HealthCare LLC, PPMCO Hepatitis C Therapy (July 28, 2022), <https://perma.cc/Q3BC-5P3Y>.

<sup>13</sup> Priority Partners MCO, Prior Authorization – Mavyret (accessed February 2024), <https://perma.cc/U7D2-5QPP>.

<sup>14</sup> Aetna Better Health Maryland, Hepatitis C Therapy Prior Authorization Form (July 2021), <https://perma.cc/AF2F-4QPB>.

<sup>15</sup> Wellpoint, Pharmacy Information and Tools, <https://perma.cc/8W9K-4D5K>; Wellpoint Clinical Criteria (June 2022), <https://perma.cc/8MSR-RPJA>.

<sup>16</sup> CareFirst Community Health Plan Maryland, Pharmacy Authorizations and Medication Exceptions (linking directly to FFS policy), <https://perma.cc/JY92-9JM2>.

<sup>17</sup> Jai Medical Systems, Pharmacy, <https://perma.cc/HR8M-ATC3>; Jai Medical Systems, Clinical Criteria for Hepatitis C Therapy, <https://perma.cc/7TBA-NW6A>.

<sup>18</sup> Kaiser Permanente Mid-Atlantic States Region (KPMAS), Maryland Medicaid, Prior Authorization Criteria (Feb. 6, 2024), <https://perma.cc/5YA8-35QB>.

<sup>19</sup> Maryland Physicians Care, Prior Authorization for Medications (linking directly to FFS policy), <https://perma.cc/J26D-TDFY>.

<sup>20</sup> MedStar Family Choice Maryland, Prescribing Guide (June 2022), <https://perma.cc/J3C3-LJME>.

<sup>21</sup> United Healthcare Maryland, Hepatitis C Therapy Prior Authorization Form, <https://perma.cc/Z9MV-EPVD>.

<sup>22</sup> Clinical Criteria.

<sup>23</sup> National Association of Medicaid Directors, Medicaid Directors (accessed Jan. 2023), <https://perma.cc/53DU-L5D3>.

<sup>24</sup> Maryland Department of Health, Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee, <https://health.maryland.gov/mmcp/pap/pages/Pharmacy-Therapeutics-Committee-Members.aspx>.

<sup>25</sup> Maryland Medicaid Pharmacy, Preferred Drug List, Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee Meeting,

<https://health.maryland.gov/mmcp/pap/pages/Public-Meeting-Announcement-and-Procedures-for-Public-Testimony.aspx>.