

Hepatitis C: State of Medicaid Access Report Card

Massachusetts



Grade	Recommendations to Improve Patient Access
A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove additional restrictions as described below.

State Overview

As of September 2022, 1,934,907 individuals were enrolled in Medicaid (MassHealth) and CHIP.¹ It is estimated that as of 2016, 38,100 people were living with HCV in Massachusetts.² 56 percent of MassHealth beneficiaries are enrolled in a Managed Care Organization (MCO),³ Accountable Care Organization (ACO)⁴ or Accountable Care Partnership Plan (ACCP).⁵ The remaining beneficiaries participate in Primary Care Case Management (PCCM) programs (33 percent) operated by the state or Fee-For-Service (FFS) programs (11 percent).⁶

MassHealth contracts with 2 MCOs: BMC HealthNet Plan and Tufts Health Together; 3 primary care ACOS: Community Care Cooperative (C3), Mass General Brigham (formerly AllWays Health Partners), and Steward Health Choice; and 13 ACCPs: Be Healthy Partnership, Berkshire Fallon Health Collaborative, BMC HealthNet Plan Community Alliance, BMC HealthNet Plan Mercy Alliance, BMC HealthNet Plan Signature Alliance, BMC HealthNet Plan Southcoast Alliance, Fallon 365 Care, My Care Family, Tufts Health Together with Atrius Health, Tufts Health Together with BIDCO, Tufts Health Together with Boston Children’s ACO, Tufts Health Together with CHA, and Wellforce Care Plan.⁷ Effective April 1, 2023, MassHealth transitioned to a uniform formulary, requiring all MCOs and ACOs to use the MassHealth Drug List for pharmacy drug coverage.⁸

The Massachusetts Medicaid Preferred Drug List lists Mavyret, ledipasvir/sofosbuvir, and sofosbuvir/velpatasvir (generic Epclusa) as preferred regimens.⁹

Deductions	Policy
Prior Authorization	<p>MassHealth’s preferred drug list designates all DAA regimens as requiring prior authorization.¹⁰ However, for many patients, the prior authorization requirement has been effectively removed due to MassHealth’s use of pharmacy claims technical software, called Smart PA.¹¹</p> <p>MassHealth’s Smart PA software links diagnosis codes from medical claims during pharmacy claims adjudication, allowing some claims to process at the pharmacy without a separate prior authorization form needing to be submitted.¹²</p> <p>Patients can thus bypass the prior authorization process if they are prescribed a preferred HCV treatment regimen and meet the following additional requirements: the patient must be at least 3 years old, was never covered for hepatitis C treatment via MassHealth in the past, has no paid Masshealth pharmacy claims suggestive of decompensated cirrhosis in all claims history, and has no history of paid Masshealth claims in the past 90 days for a drug that may lower DAA efficacy.¹³</p>
Fibrosis Restrictions	Massachusetts Medicaid does not impose fibrosis restrictions. ¹⁴
Substance Use Restrictions	Massachusetts Medicaid does not impose substance use restrictions. ¹⁵
Prescriber Restrictions	Massachusetts Medicaid does not impose prescriber restrictions. ¹⁶
Retreatment Restrictions	Massachusetts Medicaid does not impose retreatment restrictions. ¹⁷
Access in Managed Care	Massachusetts Medicaid requires all MCOs to use the MassHealth Drug List for pharmacy drug coverage, including implementing the MHDL’s prior authorization status, clinical criteria, and additional coverage notes. ¹⁸

Additional Restrictions	-2	While Massachusetts Medicaid does not impose additional restrictions, some prescribers have noted that the rollout of the SmartPA system has not been seamless, and that a small number of patients who meet the requirements for SmartPA have experienced delays getting their prescriptions filled via this method.
Total Deductions	Total Score [100-Deductions]	Grade
-2	98	A

Contact Your State Officials

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Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee²⁰: MassHealth Drug Utilization Review (DUR) Program
Commonwealth Medicine University of Massachusetts Medical School, P.O. Box 2586, Worcester, MA 01613;
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Key Sources

Preferred Drug List: [MassHealth Preferred Drug List \(July 2023\)](#)

Clinical Criteria: [MassHealth Preferred Drug List, Therapeutic Class Tables, Table 44: Hepatitis Antiviral Agents \(April 2023\)](#)

Prior Authorization Form for Patients Not Meeting SmartPA Criteria: [MassHealth Hepatitis Antiviral Agents Prior Authorization Request \(April 2023\)](#)

¹ Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Medicaid & CHIP in Massachusetts, <https://perma.cc/N39W-X5VN>.

² HepVu, Local Data: Massachusetts, <https://perma.cc/E36W-HWE6>.

³ Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Managed Care Organization Plans, <https://perma.cc/QXN7-HBHB>.

⁴ Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Primary ACO Plans, <https://perma.cc/AUS2-3XK8>.

⁵ Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Accountable Care Partnership Plans, <https://perma.cc/F9Y4-Q8C5>.

⁶ Kaiser Family Foundation, Share of Medicaid Population Covered Under Different Delivery Systems (July 1, 2022), <https://perma.cc/EMN8-QR8B>.

⁷ Commonwealth of Massachusetts, ACOs and MCOs, <https://perma.cc/HTJ9-JF4Q>.

⁸ MassHealth Prescriber E-Letter, Volume 13, Issue 1 (March 2023), <https://perma.cc/6AQD-7LHN>.

⁹ Preferred Drug List.

¹⁰ Preferred Drug List.

¹¹ MassHealth Medicaid, Introduction to MassHealth Drug List (last updated January 30, 2023), <https://perma.cc/R7E2-XTTF>.

¹² MassHealth Medicaid, Introduction to MassHealth Drug List (last updated January 30, 2023), <https://perma.cc/R7E2-XTTF>.

¹³ Clinical Criteria.

¹⁴ Clinical Criteria.

¹⁵ Clinical Criteria.

¹⁶ Clinical Criteria.

¹⁷ Clinical Criteria.

¹⁸ MassHealth Prescriber E-Letter, Volume 13, Issue 1 (March 2023), <https://perma.cc/6AQD-7LHN>.

¹⁹ National Association of Medicaid Directors, Medicaid Directors (accessed Jan. 2023), <https://perma.cc/TG6Y-BQFA>.

²⁰ Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Drug Utilization Review, <https://perma.cc/3PTF-LD3Y>.