

Hepatitis C: State of Medicaid Access Report Card

Massachusetts



Grade	Recommendations to Improve Patient Access
A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure parity across MassHealth ACOs and MCOs regarding HCV prior authorization requirements.

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

The Massachusetts Medicaid Preferred Drug List lists ledipasvir/sofosbuvir, Mavyret, and sofosbuvir/velpatasvir (generic Epclusa) as preferred regimens.⁸

Deductions	Policy
Prior Authorization	<p>MassHealth’s preferred drug list designates all DAA regimens as requiring prior authorization.⁹ However, for many patients, the prior authorization requirement has been effectively removed due to MassHealth’s use of pharmacy claims technical software, called SmartPA.¹⁰</p> <p>MassHealth’s SmartPA 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.¹¹</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.¹²</p>
Fibrosis Restrictions	Massachusetts Medicaid does not impose fibrosis restrictions. ¹³
Substance Use Restrictions	Massachusetts Medicaid does not impose substance use restrictions. ¹⁴
Prescriber Restrictions	Massachusetts Medicaid does not impose prescriber restrictions. ¹⁵
Retreatment Restrictions	Massachusetts Medicaid does not impose retreatment restrictions. ¹⁶

Access in Managed Care	-8	<p>Some managed care plans that contract with Massachusetts impose greater restrictions than FFS and have not yet removed prior authorization for patients who meet SmartPA criteria.</p> <p>Berkshire Fallon Health Collaborative, Fallon 365 Care, and Wellforce Care Plan share the same formulary documents and still appear to require prior authorization for all patients.¹⁷</p> <p>My Care Family and Mass General Brigham/AllWays Health Partners formularies do not appear to require prior authorization for Epclusa,¹⁸ but the clinical criteria do not mention the SmartPA process.¹⁹ Be Healthy Partnership does not appear to require prior authorization for Epclusa or Mavyret.²⁰</p> <p>Steward Health Choice,²¹ Community Care Cooperative (C3),²² the BMC Health Net plans,²³ and the Tufts Health Together plans²⁴ are in parity with FFS, allowing patients who meet SmartPA criteria to pay at the pharmacy without prior authorization.</p>
Additional Restrictions		Massachusetts Medicaid does not impose additional restrictions. ²⁵
Total Deductions	Total Score [100-Deductions]	Grade
-8	92	A

Contact Your State Officials

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Key Sources

Preferred Drug List: [MassHealth Preferred Drug List \(Dec. 12, 2022\)](#)

Clinical Criteria: [MassHealth Preferred Drug List, Therapeutic Class Tables, Table 44: Hepatitis Antiviral Agents \(Dec. 2022\)](#)

Prior Authorization Form for Patients Not Meeting SmartPA Criteria: [MassHealth Hepatitis Antiviral Agents Prior Authorization Request \(Dec. 2022\)](#)

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 Preferred Drug List.

⁹ Preferred Drug List.

¹⁰ MassHealth Medicaid, Introduction to MassHealth Drug List (last updated January 30, 2023), <https://perma.cc/R7E2-XTTF>.

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

¹² Clinical Criteria.

¹³ Clinical Criteria.

¹⁴ Clinical Criteria.

¹⁵ Clinical Criteria.

¹⁶ Clinical Criteria.

¹⁷ Fallon Health, Therapeutic Class Search: “antivirals/anti-hepatitis c (hcv) agents” (December 2022), [https://client.formularynavigator.com/Search.aspx?siteCode=8164346221&drugSortBy=brand&drugSortOrder=asc&targetScreen=3&drugBrandListBaseTC=antivirals%7canti-hepatitis+c+\(hcv\)+agents](https://client.formularynavigator.com/Search.aspx?siteCode=8164346221&drugSortBy=brand&drugSortOrder=asc&targetScreen=3&drugBrandListBaseTC=antivirals%7canti-hepatitis+c+(hcv)+agents).

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- ¹⁸ Allways Health Partners, Formulary Search (accessed January 2023), <https://massgeneralbrighamhealthplan.org/pharmacy/masshealth-formulary>.
- ¹⁹ Allways Health Partners, Hepatitis C Medications (May 1, 2022), <https://perma.cc/LY7K-63V9>.
- ²⁰ BeHealthy Partnership Drug Formulary (accessed January 2023), <https://perma.cc/3DME-7NQB>.
- ²¹ Steward Health Choice, <https://perma.cc/2RTP-Y8VR> (accessed Jan. 2023) (linking directly to FFS preferred drug list).
- ²² Community Care Cooperative, <https://perma.cc/R3Q9-HASQ> (accessed Jan. 2023) (linking directly to FFS preferred drug list).
- ²³ Boston Medical Center HealthNet Plan, Pharmacy Policy: Hepatitis Antiviral Agents (July 1, 2022), <https://perma.cc/FES9-C3FX>.
- ²⁴ Tufts Health Together – MassHealth MCO Plan and Accountable Care Partnership Plans, Pharmacy Medical Necessity Guidelines: Medications for the Treatment of Hepatitis C (Jan. 1, 2023), <https://perma.cc/LB52-V2KX> (describing “automated point of service coverage”).
- ²⁵ Clinical Criteria.
- ²⁶ National Association of Medicaid Directors, Medicaid Directors (accessed Jan. 2023), <https://perma.cc/TG6Y-BQFA>.
- ²⁷ Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Drug Utilization Review, <https://perma.cc/3PTF-LD3Y>.