

Hepatitis C: State of Medicaid Access Report Card

Massachusetts

Estimated Number of Individuals Living with Hepatitis C: 38,100¹



Grade	Summary
<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; text-align: center;">A</p>	<p>Liver Damage (Fibrosis) Restrictions: Fee-For-Service (FFS), the Primary Care Clinician Plan (PCCP), managed care organizations (MCOs), and accountable care organizations (ACOs) do not impose liver damage restrictions.</p> <p>Sobriety Restrictions: FFS/PCCP, MCOs, and ACOs do not impose sobriety restrictions.</p> <p>Prescriber Restrictions: FFS/PCCP, MCOs, and ACOs do not impose sobriety restrictions.</p> <p>Recommendations to Improve Patient Access:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain open access and transparency regarding hepatitis C coverage requirements. • Remove prior authorization for patients who qualify for simplified treatment. <p><i>Grade Rationale: Massachusetts has dramatically increased access to hepatitis C medications in response to strong advocacy. All Medicaid beneficiaries have access to treatment and there is parity across FFS, MCOs, and ACOs. Massachusetts could increase its grade to an "A+" by removing prior authorization.</i></p>

Background

As of June 2021, Massachusetts had 1,785,751 individuals enrolled in Medicaid, known as MassHealth, and CHIP.² Over 53 percent of MassHealth enrollees are enrolled in a managed care organization (MCO) or an Accountable Care Partnership Plan, a type of accountable care organization (ACO). The remaining enrollees participate in either the Primary Care Clinician Plan (PCCP) system (38.4 percent), a managed care program operated by the state, or Fee-For-Service (FFS) or other program (8.2 percent).³ Enrollees in the PCCP program may also enroll in a Primary Care ACO, where the PCCP program continues to serve as the payer.⁴ Currently, MassHealth contracts with two MCOs, BMC HealthNet Plan and Tufts Health Together; thirteen Accountable Care Partnership Plans, 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; and three Primary Care ACOs, Community Care Cooperative, Mass General Brigham, and Stewart Health Choice.⁵ In 2006, Massachusetts reformed its health care system to provide near universal health insurance coverage for its residents, achieving 98 percent coverage.⁶

State of Medicaid Hepatitis C Treatment Access

MassHealth has broad access to hepatitis C medications. In 2016, after significant patient and provider advocacy, MassHealth directed its contracted MCOs to remove any restrictions related to liver damage, sobriety, and prescriber specialty, in line with the FFS and PCCP programs.⁷ As a result, all beneficiaries now have unrestricted access to hepatitis C medications.⁸ MassHealth also requires that all MCOs and Accountable Care Partnership Plans adopt the FFS/PCCP prior authorization criteria for certain drugs on the Uniform Prescription Drug List, which include hepatitis C treatment.⁹ FFS/PCCP, MCOs, and Accountable Care Partnership Plans require a diagnosis of hepatitis C and do not impose any sobriety or prescribing requirements.¹⁰ MassHealth Preferred Drug List (PDL), applicable also to MCOs and Accountable Care Partnership Plans, includes ledipasvir/sofosbuvir, sofosbuvir, velpatasvir, and Mavyret as preferred, and Vosevi and Zepatier as non-preferred.¹¹

Liver Damage (Fibrosis) Restrictions

MassHealth FFS/PCCP, MCOs, and ACOs do not impose any liver damage restrictions.¹²

Sobriety Restrictions

MassHealth FFS/PCCP, MCOs and ACOs do not impose any sobriety requirements.¹³

MassHealth FFS/PCCP, MCOs, and ACOs do not impose any prescriber requirements.¹⁴

Points of Contact for Questions & Concerns about Massachusetts' State of Medicaid Hepatitis C Access

MassHealth (Medicaid):¹⁵ Amanda Cassel Kraft, Assistant Secretary for MassHealth, Massachusetts Department of Health and Human Services

1 Ashburn Place, 11th Floor, Room 1109, Boston, MA, 02108; Telephone: (617) 573-1770; Email Address: amanda.casselkraft@state.ma.us

MassHealth Drug Utilization Review (DUR):¹⁶

Commonwealth Medicine University of Massachusetts Medical School, P.O. Box 2586, Worcester, MA 01613; Telephone: (800) 745-7318

¹ Massachusetts State Profile, HepVu: <https://hepvu.org/state/massachusetts/>.

² Medicaid and CHIP in Massachusetts, By-State, Medicaid.gov (Accessed December 2021): <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/by-state/stateprofile.html?state=massachusetts>.

³ Share of Medicaid Population Covered under Different Delivery Systems, The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation (Accessed December 2021):

<http://www.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 What to Know About ACOs: An Introduction to MassHealth Accountable Care Organizations, BlueCross Foundation of Massachusetts, July 2018 (Accessed December 2021):

https://www.bluecrossmafoundation.org/sites/g/files/csphws2101/files/2020-09/ACO_Primer_July2018_Final.pdf.

⁵ Full List of MassHealth ACOs and MCOs, Mass.gov (Accessed December 2021): <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/full-list-of-masshealth-acos-and-mcos>; Accountable Care Partnership Plan, Mass.gov (Accessed December 2021): <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/accountable-care-partnership-plan>; Primary Care ACO Plans, Mass.gov (Accessed December 2021): <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/primary-care-aco-plans>.

⁶ Alexander Norbash, David Hinson, & Janelle Heineke, The accountable health care act of Massachusetts: mixed results for an experiment in universal health care coverage, Journal of the American College of Radiology, October 2012: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/23025869/>.

⁷ Daniel Tsai, MassHealth Managed Care Organization Bulletin 6, July 2016: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/managed-care-organization-bulletin-6-masshealth-contracted-managed-care-organization-mco/download>.

⁸ Table 44: Hepatitis Antiviral Agents, Mass.gov (Accessed December 2021): <https://mhdل.pharmacy.services.conduent.com/MHDL/pubtheradetail.do?id=44>.

⁹ MassHealth ACP/MCO Unified Pharmacy Product List Reference Table (effective 1/1/22), MassHealth (accessed December 2021):

<https://mhdل.pharmacy.services.conduent.com/MHDL/pubdownloadpdfwelcome.do?docId=447&fileType=PDF> ("MassHealth ACPs and MCOs must align their pharmacy product lists with the MHDL's preferred status designations and prior authorization requirements for the preferred and non-preferred pharmacy products in these therapeutic classes.")

¹⁰ Ibid. Table 44: Hepatitis Antiviral Agents, Mass.gov (Accessed December 2021); See also Hepatitis Antiviral Agents Prior Authorization Request, MassHealth (Accessed December 2021):

<https://mhdل.pharmacy.services.conduent.com/MHDL/pubdownloadpa.do?id=5693>; See also Pharmacy Medical Necessity Guidelines: Medications for the Treatment of Hepatitis C, Tufts Health Plan, Effective September 1, 2021 (Accessed December 2021): <https://tuftshealthplan.com/documents/providers/guidelines/pharmacy-medical-necessity-guidelines/hep-c-together> (applicable to Tufts Health Together and Tufts Health Together-associated Accountable Care Partnership Plans); See also Massachusetts Standard Form for Hepatitis C Medication Prior Authorization Requests, Tufts Health Plan (Accessed December 2021):

<https://tuftshealthplan.com/documents/providers/forms/hepatitis-c-medication-request-form>; See also Hepatitis Antiviral Agents – Unified Formulary, BMC HealthNet Plan, Effective September 1, 2021 (Accessed December 2021): <https://www.bmchp.org/-/media/167bcafd3ff45c799fcc91d12a67329.ashx> (applicable to BMC HealthNet Plan and BMC HealthNet-associated Accountable Care Partnership Plans); See also

Massachusetts Standard Form for Hepatitis C Medication Prior Authorization Requests, BMC HealthNet Plan (Accessed December 2021): <https://www.bmchp.org/-/media/50ef3e54ff9f417da8e41b68b592b40b.ashx>; See also, e.g., Mavyret Coverage Policy MH, HNE Direct (Accessed December 2021): <http://www.hnedirect.com/FormularyLookup/ClinicalRequest.aspx?Doc=Mavyret/Mavyret%20Clinical%20Policy%20-%20PS648POLmh.pdf> (applicable to Be Healthy Partnership); See also, e.g., Medication Request Form/Prescription Request Mavyret, Health New England (Accessed December 2021): <http://www.hnedirect.com/FormularyLookup/MedRequest.aspx?Doc=Mavyret/PS648POL-Mavyret%20MH%20MRF.pdf>; See also other Be Healthy Partnership clinical criteria and medication request forms, available at

<http://www.hnedirect.com/FormularyLookup/Default.aspx>; See also Online Drug Formulary Results, Fallon Health (Accessed December 2021):

[https://client.formularynavigator.com/Search.aspx?siteCode=8164346221&targetScreen=3&drugBrandListBaseTC=antivirals%257canti-hepatitis%2Bc%2B\(hcv\)%2Bagents](https://client.formularynavigator.com/Search.aspx?siteCode=8164346221&targetScreen=3&drugBrandListBaseTC=antivirals%257canti-hepatitis%2Bc%2B(hcv)%2Bagents) (applicable to Fallon Health Accountable Care Partnership Plans, including Berkshire Fallon Health Collaborative, Fallon 365 Care, and Wellforce Care Plan); See also Hepatitis C Medications, AllWays Health Partners (Accessed December 2021):

https://resources.allwayshealthpartners.org/pharmacy/MedicalSpecialtyandPharmacyPolicies/HepC_PA_MH_Rx.pdf (applicable to My Care Family); See also Hepatitis C Treatment at a Glance: April 2021 Introduction, Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/coverage-of-hepatitis-c-treatment-at-a-glance-2021/download>.

¹¹ Ibid. MassHealth ACP/MCO Unified Pharmacy Product List Reference Table (effective 1/1/22), MassHealth (accessed December 2021).

¹² Ibid. Table 44: Hepatitis Antiviral Agents, Mass.gov (Accessed December 2021); See also Pharmacy Medical Necessity Guidelines: Medications for the Treatment of Hepatitis C, Tufts Health Plan, Effective September 1, 2021 (Accessed December 2021) (applicable to Tufts Health Together and Tufts Health Together-associated Accountable Care Partnership Plans); See also Hepatitis Antiviral Agents – Unified Formulary, BMC HealthNet Plan, Effective September 1, 2021 (Accessed December 2021) (applicable to BMC HealthNet Plan and BMC HealthNet-associated Accountable Care Partnership Plans); See also, e.g., Mavyret Coverage Policy MH, HNE Direct (Accessed December 2021) (applicable to Be Healthy Partnership); See also Online Drug Formulary Results, Fallon Health (Accessed December 2021) (applicable to Fallon Health Accountable Care Partnership Plans, including Berkshire Fallon Health Collaborative, Fallon 365 Care, and Wellforce Care Plan); See also Hepatitis C Medications, AllWays Health Partners (Accessed December 2021) (applicable to My Care Family).

¹³ Ibid. Table 44: Hepatitis Antiviral Agents, Mass.gov (Accessed December 2021); See also Pharmacy Medical Necessity Guidelines: Medications for the Treatment of Hepatitis C, Tufts Health Plan, Effective September 1, 2021 (Accessed December 2021) (applicable to Tufts Health Together and Tufts Health Together-associated Accountable Care Partnership Plans); See also Hepatitis Antiviral Agents – Unified Formulary, BMC HealthNet Plan, Effective September 1, 2021 (Accessed December 2021) (applicable to BMC HealthNet Plan and BMC HealthNet-associated Accountable Care Partnership Plans); See also, e.g., Mavyret Coverage Policy MH, HNE Direct (Accessed December 2021) (applicable to Be Healthy Partnership); See also Online Drug Formulary Results, Fallon Health (Accessed December 2021) (applicable to Fallon Health Accountable Care Partnership Plans, including Berkshire Fallon Health Collaborative, Fallon 365 Care, and Wellforce Care Plan); See also Hepatitis C Medications, AllWays Health Partners (Accessed December 2021) (applicable to My Care Family).

¹⁴ Ibid. Table 44: Hepatitis Antiviral Agents, Mass.gov (Accessed December 2021); See also Pharmacy Medical Necessity Guidelines: Medications for the Treatment of Hepatitis C, Tufts Health Plan, Effective September 1, 2021 (Accessed December 2021) (applicable to Tufts Health Together and Tufts Health Together-associated Accountable Care Partnership Plans); See also Hepatitis Antiviral Agents – Unified Formulary, BMC HealthNet Plan, Effective September 1, 2021 (Accessed December 2021) (applicable to BMC HealthNet Plan and BMC HealthNet-associated Accountable Care Partnership Plans); See also, e.g., Mavyret Coverage Policy MH, HNE Direct (Accessed December 2021) (applicable to Be Healthy Partnership); See also Online Drug Formulary Results, Fallon Health (Accessed December 2021) (applicable to Fallon Health Accountable Care Partnership Plans, including Berkshire Fallon Health Collaborative, Fallon 365 Care, and Wellforce Care Plan); See also Hepatitis C Medications, AllWays Health Partners (Accessed December 2021) (applicable to My Care Family).

¹⁵ Medicaid Directors, National Association of Medicaid Directors (Accessed December 2021): <http://medicaiddirectors.org/about/medicaid-directors/>.

¹⁶ MassHealth Drug Utilization Review (DUR) Board Meeting Schedule, Mass.gov (Accessed December 2021): <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/drug-utilization-review-dur-board-meeting-schedule>.