

Hepatitis C: State of Medicaid Access Report Card

Mississippi

Estimated Number of Individuals Living with Hepatitis C: 22,900¹



Grade	Summary
D+	<p>Liver Damage (Fibrosis) Restrictions: Fee-For-Service (FFS) and managed care organizations (MCOs) do not specify liver damage requirements.</p> <p>Sobriety Restrictions: FFS and MCOs require 6 months abstinence documented by a urine screen for beneficiaries with a history of use.</p> <p>Prescriber Restrictions: FFS and MCOs require a prescription by or in consultation with a specialist.</p> <p>Recommendations to Improve Patient Access:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Remove sobriety and prescriber restrictions.• Maintain hepatitis C coverage parity across the FFS and MCO program and transparency regarding coverage criteria. <p><i>Grade Rationale: Mississippi severely restricts access to hepatitis C medications. While there are no specified liver damage requirements, both FFS and MCOs require an unacceptable six months of abstinence for beneficiaries with a history of substance or alcohol use. FFS and MCOs also require a prescription be written by or in consultation with a specialist. Mississippi is recognized for the apparent lack of liver damage requirements and parity across FFS and MCOs with a “plus” added to its D grade.</i></p>

Background

As of May 2021, Mississippi had 701,409 individuals enrolled in Medicaid and Children Health Insurance Program (CHIP).² The Mississippi Division of Medicaid (DOM) administers a Fee-For-Service (FFS) program and contracts with Managed Care Organizations (MCOs). The MCO program is known as Mississippi Coordinated Access Network (MississippiCAN), which is serviced by three health insurance plans: Magnolia Health, UnitedHealthcare Community Plan (UHC) and Molina Healthcare.³ Most beneficiaries, 99.4 percent, participate in MississippiCAN.⁴

State of Medicaid Hepatitis C Treatment Access

Mississippi FFS and MCOs restrict access to hepatitis C medications. There is hepatitis C coverage parity across FFS and MississippiCAN contracted health insurance plans.⁵ All MCOs utilize Mississippi DOM’s hepatitis C prior authorization (PA) form, criteria and the Division’s Preferred Drug List (PDL). Preferred products include Mavyret and sofosbuvir/velpatasvir.⁶ The PA form states that Mississippi DOM will approve hepatitis C PA requests that are “compliant with the latest American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases/Infectious Diseases Society of America Recommendations for Testing, Managing, and Treating Hepatitis C.”⁷

Liver Damage (Fibrosis) Restrictions

Mississippi FFS and MCOs (Magnolia Health, UHC, and Molina Healthcare) do not appear to impose liver damage requirements.⁸

Sobriety Restrictions

Mississippi FFS and MCOs (Magnolia Health, UHC, and Molina Healthcare) require at least six months abstinence from alcohol or substance use if a beneficiary has a history of use.⁹ Sobriety must be documented by a negative urine screen for beneficiaries with a history of intravenous drug use.¹⁰ Additionally, the prescriber must counsel beneficiaries on alcohol and substance use and ways to avoid hepatitis C transmission.¹¹

Prescriber Restrictions

Mississippi FFS and MCOs (Magnolia Health, UHC, and Molina Healthcare) require a prescription by or in consultation with a “gastroenterologist, hepatologist, ID specialist or other hepatic specialist.”¹² A specialist must be “consulted within the past year with documentation of the recommended regimen.”¹³

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

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

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

³ Managed Care, Mississippi Division of Medicaid (Accessed December 2021): <https://medicaid.ms.gov/mississippian-health-plans/>.

⁴ Share of Medicaid Population Covered Under Different Delivery Systems, Medicaid Market Tracker, Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, July 1, 2016 (Accessed December 2021): <http://www.kff.org/medicaid/state-indicator/share-of-medicaid-population-covered-under-different-delivery-systems/?currentTimeframe=0&sortModel=%7B%22colId%22:%22Location%22,%22sort%22:%22asc%22%7D>.

⁵ Standardized One Page Pharmacy Prior Authorization Form, Hepatitis C Packet, Mississippi Division of Medicaid, 6/1/2021 (Accessed December 2021): <https://medicaid.ms.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Hep-C-PACKET.pdf>.

⁶ Universal Preferred Drug List, Mississippi Division of Medicaid, Effective: 01/01/2022 (Accessed December 2021) <https://medicaid.ms.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/MS-PDL-01012022.pdf>.

⁷ Ibid. Standardized One Page Pharmacy Prior Authorization Form, Hepatitis C Packet, Mississippi Division of Medicaid, 6/1/2021 (Accessed December 2021).

⁸ Ibid. Standardized One Page Pharmacy Prior Authorization Form, Hepatitis C Packet, Mississippi Division of Medicaid, 6/1/2021 (Accessed December 2021).

⁹ Ibid. Standardized One Page Pharmacy Prior Authorization Form, Hepatitis C Packet, Mississippi Division of Medicaid, 6/1/2021 (Accessed December 2021).

¹⁰ Ibid. Standardized One Page Pharmacy Prior Authorization Form, Hepatitis C Packet, Mississippi Division of Medicaid, 6/1/2021 (Accessed December 2021).

¹¹ Ibid. Standardized One Page Pharmacy Prior Authorization Form, Hepatitis C Packet, Mississippi Division of Medicaid, 6/1/2021 (Accessed December 2021).

¹² Ibid. Standardized One Page Pharmacy Prior Authorization Form, Hepatitis C Packet, Mississippi Division of Medicaid, 6/1/2021 (Accessed December 2021).

¹³ Ibid. Standardized One Page Pharmacy Prior Authorization Form, Hepatitis C Packet, Mississippi Division of Medicaid, 6/1/2021 (Accessed December 2021).

¹⁴ Mississippi, Medicaid Directors, National Association of Medicaid Directors (Accessed December 2021): <http://medicaiddirectors.org/about/medicaid-directors/>.

¹⁵ Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee, Mississippi Division of Medicaid (Accessed December 2021): <https://medicaid.ms.gov/providers/pharmacy/pharmacy-and-therapeutics-committee/>.