

Hepatitis C: State of Medicaid Access Report Card

Missouri

Estimated Number of Individuals Living with Hepatitis C: 40,300¹



Grade	Summary
<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; color: #800000;">A+</p>	<p>Liver Damage (Fibrosis) Restrictions: Missouri does not impose liver damage restrictions.</p> <p>Sobriety Restrictions: Missouri does not impose sobriety restrictions.</p> <p>Prescriber Restrictions: Missouri does not impose prescriber restrictions.</p> <p>Recommendations to Improve Patient Access:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserve open access to hepatitis C medications. • Remove retreatment restrictions. <p><i>Grade Rationale: Missouri has significantly increased access to hepatitis C treatment. The state has removed prior authorization for Mavyret, for all MO HealthNet beneficiaries, including those enrolled in MCOs.</i></p>

Overview

As of April 2021, Missouri had 1,054,820 individuals enrolled in Medicaid, known as MO HealthNet,² and Children’s Health Insurance Program.³ Missouri operates a Fee-For-Service (FFS) program and contracts with three Managed Care Organizations (MCOs): Home State Health, Healthy Blue, and UnitedHealthcare.⁴ Seventy-three percent of beneficiaries are enrolled in a MCO plan and 27 percent participate in the FFS program.⁵ As of October 1, 2009, Missouri excludes pharmacy services from MCO contracts.⁶ All pharmacy claims and prior authorization (PA) are processed by the MO HealthNet FFS pharmacy program.⁷

State of Medicaid Hepatitis C Treatment Access

In October 2016, Legal Services of Eastern Missouri, the Saint Louis University Legal Clinic, and the National Health Law Program filed a case in the United States District Court for the Western District of Missouri against the MO HealthNet for restricting access to hepatitis C medications based on liver damage (fibrosis) severity and sobriety.⁸ The court issued a preliminary injunction barring Missouri from enforcing its restrictions related to sobriety, raising the possibility that a final determination of the issue may be unfavorable.⁹ In November 2017, Missouri took steps to improve access to hepatitis C medications by eliminating liver damage restrictions.¹⁰

In July 2021, Missouri removed prior authorization requirements entirely for Mavyret. This change is part of an initiative called Project Hep Cure, based on a subscription purchasing model with AbbVie that is slated to run through June 2024.¹¹ Other medications, including Epclusa, Harvoni, ledipasvir-sofosbuvir, sofosbuvir-velpatasvir, Sovaldi, Viekira Pak, Vosevi, and Zepatier are non-preferred under the state’s formulary and require prior authorization. Authorization for such medications is only allowed if Mavyret cannot be utilized for the patient, and the provider must submit a baseline viral load and liver damage fibrosis score.¹² The prescriber must also submit viral load results “upon completion of treatment for non-preferred products and 12 weeks post treatment” and caution that “failure to submit these lab reports in a timely fashion may result in denial of retreatment should that situation arise.”¹³ Retreatment using non-preferred products is “at the discretion of MO HealthNet.”¹⁴

Liver Damage (Fibrosis) Restrictions

MO HealthNet does not impose liver damage restrictions.

Sobriety Restrictions

MO HealthNet does not impose sobriety restrictions.

MO HealthNet does not impose prescriber restrictions.

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

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¹ Missouri, State Profile, Hepvu: <https://hepvu.org/state/missouri>.

² Medical Services-MO HealthNet, Missouri Department of Social Services: <https://mydss.mo.gov/msmed>.

³ Medicaid & CHIP in Missouri, By-State, Medicaid.gov: <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/by-state/stateprofile.html?state=missouri>.

⁴ MO HealthNet Managed Care Plan Options, Missouri Department of Social Services: <https://dss.mo.gov/mhd/participants/mc/managed-care-health-plan-options.htm>.

⁵ Share of Medicaid Population Covered Under Different Delivery Systems, Medicaid Managed Care Market Tracker, Henry J Kaiser Family Foundation: <http://www.kff.org/medicaid/state-indicator/share-of-medicaid-population-covered-under-different-delivery-systems/?currentTimeframe=0&sortModel=%7B%22colld%22:%22Location%22,%22sort%22:%22asc%22%7D>.

⁶ Managed Care Pharmacy Carve-Out-Billing Notification, Missouri Department of Social Services: <http://dss.mo.gov/mhd/cs/pharmacy/pages/mcpharmcob.htm>.

⁷ Managed Care Pharmacy Carve-Out-Billing Notification, Missouri Department of Social Services: <http://dss.mo.gov/mhd/cs/pharmacy/pages/mcpharmcob.htm>.

⁸ Steph Zimmerman, Hepatitis C Patients Sue Missouri For Not Covering Pricy, Life-saving Drugs, St Louis Health News, November 7, 2016: <https://www.stlmag.com/health/news/hepatitis-c-patients-sue-missouri>.

⁹ Order Granting Preliminary Injunction, *J.E.M. et al. v. Kinkade*, No. 16-cv-04273-SRB (W.D. Mo. 2017).

¹⁰ Samantha Liss, State reverses restrictive policy on hepatitis C drugs, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, November 21, 2017: https://www.stltoday.com/lifestyles/health-med-fit/state-reverses-restrictive-policy-on-hepatitis-c-drugs/article_7e4aa528-4cbc-597a-86f4-81a8f37f46a3.html.

¹¹ Hepatitis C (HCV) Agents PDL Edit, SmartPA Criteria Proposal, MO HealthNet, July 2, 2021: <https://dss.mo.gov/mhd/cs/pharmacy/pdf/hepatitis-c-therapy.pdf>; See also Project Hep Cure, Missouri Department of Social Services: <https://dss.mo.gov/mhd/hepc>.

¹² Hepatitis C (HCV) Agents PDL Edit, SmartPA Criteria Proposal, MO HealthNet, July 2, 2021: <https://dss.mo.gov/mhd/cs/pharmacy/pdf/hepatitis-c-therapy.pdf>.

¹³ Hepatitis C (HCV) Agents PDL Edit, SmartPA Criteria Proposal, MO HealthNet, July 2, 2021: <https://dss.mo.gov/mhd/cs/pharmacy/pdf/hepatitis-c-therapy.pdf>.

¹⁴ Hepatitis C (HCV) Agents PDL Edit, SmartPA Criteria Proposal, MO HealthNet, July 2, 2021: <https://dss.mo.gov/mhd/cs/pharmacy/pdf/hepatitis-c-therapy.pdf>.

¹⁵ Organizational Chart, Missouri Department of Social Services: <https://dss.mo.gov/ddo/orgchart.pdf>.

¹⁶ Drug Utilization Review Board, Missouri Boards and Commissions: <https://boards.mo.gov/userpages/Board.aspx?184>.