

# Hepatitis C: State of Medicaid Access Report Card

## Montana

Estimated Number of Individuals Living with Hepatitis C: 7,400<sup>1</sup>



Grade	Summary
<b>A-</b>	<p><b>Liver Damage (Fibrosis) Restrictions:</b> Montana does not impose liver damage restrictions.</p> <p><b>Sobriety Restrictions:</b> Montana requires screening and counseling for drug and alcohol use.</p> <p><b>Prescriber Restrictions:</b> Montana does not impose prescriber restrictions.</p> <p><b>Recommendations to Improve Patient Access:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Remove drug and alcohol use screening requirement.</li><li>Maintain transparency regarding hepatitis C coverage criteria.</li></ul> <p><i>Grade Rationale: Montana greatly improved access to hepatitis C treatment. The largest barrier remaining is the requirement to screen patients for drug and alcohol use, which may deter some patients from seeking treatment.</i></p>

### Background

Montana's Medicaid program is called Passport to Health.<sup>2</sup> As of May 2021, there were 288,786 individuals enrolled in Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).<sup>3</sup> Montana operates a Primary Care Case Management (PCCM) program in which beneficiaries either choose or are assigned to a primary care provider to manage their care.<sup>4</sup> The state does not contract with managed care organizations (MCOs). 88 percent of beneficiaries are enrolled in the PCCM; the remaining 12 percent participate in the Fee-For-Service (FFS) program.<sup>5</sup> Montana Medicaid establishes uniform hepatitis C coverage criteria for all beneficiaries regardless of if an individual is enrolled in the PCCM or FFS program.

### State of Medicaid Hepatitis C Treatment Access

Montana Medicaid removed most of their restrictions to hepatitis C medications effective February 3, 2020.<sup>6</sup> Montana expanded hepatitis C treatment to cover individuals with all stages of liver damage and eliminated the previous provider specialty requirement. Montana additionally eliminated the previous six-month sobriety requirement, but still requires prescribers to assess individuals "psychosocial readiness" including alcohol and substance use.<sup>7</sup> Montana Medicaid includes the following Direct-Acting Antivirals (DAAs) on their preferred drug list: preferred (Mavyret) non-preferred (Epclusa, Harvoni, Olysio, Sovaldi, and Zepatier).<sup>8</sup>

### Liver Damage (Fibrosis) Restrictions

Montana Medicaid does not impose liver damage restrictions.<sup>9</sup> The PA form inquires about fibrosis level.

### Sobriety Restrictions

Montana Medicaid requires providers to perform a "psychosocial readiness evaluation" that includes alcohol and substance use, but does not impose any mandated period of sobriety prior to approving hepatitis C treatment.<sup>10</sup>

### Prescriber Restrictions

Montana Medicaid does not impose prescriber restrictions and allows primary care physicians to prescribe hepatitis C treatment.<sup>11</sup>

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

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- <sup>1</sup> HepVu, Montana State Profile: <https://hepvu.org/state/montana/>.
- <sup>2</sup> Montana Medicaid and Health Montana Kids (HMK) Plus, DPHHS (Accessed December 2021): <http://dphhs.mt.gov/MontanaHealthcarePrograms/MemberServices>.
- <sup>3</sup> Medicaid & CHIP in Montana, By-State, Medicaid.gov (Accessed December 2021): <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/by-state/stateprofile.html?state=montana>.
- <sup>4</sup> Ibid. Montana Medicaid and Health Montana Kids (HMK) Plus, DPHHS.
- <sup>5</sup> Share of Medicaid Populations Covered Under Different Delivery Systems, State Health Facts, The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation (Updated July 2021): <http://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>.
- <sup>6</sup> Changes to Hepatitis C Treatment Criteria, Montana Healthcare Programs Notice, Montana DPHHS, January 3, 2020: <https://medicaidprovider.mt.gov/Portals/68/docs/providernotices/2020PN/provnoticchangehepatitisctreatmentcriteria01032020.pdf>; See also Montana Healthcare Programs Prior Authorization Request for Hepatitis C Treatment, Mountain-Pacific/DPHHS (Updated January 2020): <https://medicaidprovider.mt.gov/docs/forms/HepCPAForm01102020.pdf>.
- <sup>7</sup> Ibid. Changes to Hepatitis C Treatment Criteria, Montana Healthcare Programs Notice, Montana DPHHS, January 3, 2020; See also Montana Healthcare Programs Prior Authorization Request for Hepatitis C Treatment, Mountain-Pacific/DPHHS (Updated January 2020).
- <sup>8</sup> Montana Medicaid Preferred Drug List (Updated November 24, 2021): <https://medicaidprovider.mt.gov/docs/pharmacy/2021pharm/MTPDL11242021.pdf>.
- <sup>9</sup> Ibid. Changes to Hepatitis C Treatment Criteria, Montana Healthcare Programs Notice, Montana DPHHS, January 3, 2020; See also Montana Healthcare Programs Prior Authorization Request for Hepatitis C Treatment, Mountain-Pacific/DPHHS (Updated January 2020).
- <sup>10</sup> Ibid. Changes to Hepatitis C Treatment Criteria, Montana Healthcare Programs Notice, Montana DPHHS, January 3, 2020; See also Montana Healthcare Programs Prior Authorization Request for Hepatitis C Treatment, Mountain-Pacific/DPHHS (Updated January 2020).
- <sup>11</sup> Ibid. Changes to Hepatitis C Treatment Criteria, Montana Healthcare Programs Notice, Montana DPHHS, January 3, 2020; See also Montana Healthcare Programs Prior Authorization Request for Hepatitis C Treatment, Mountain-Pacific/DPHHS (Updated January 2020).
- <sup>12</sup> Public Health and Human Services, DPHHS, Agency and Telephone Listing, Montana State Government Directories: <http://mt.gov/govt/statedir/agency/dphhs.mcp>.
- <sup>13</sup> Ibid. Public Health and Human Services, DPHHS, Agency and Telephone Listing, Montana State Government Directories, See also Montana Medicaid Drug Use Review (DUR) Board: <https://dphhs.mt.gov/boardscouncils/medicaiddur.aspx> or <https://medicaidprovider.mt.gov/19dur>.