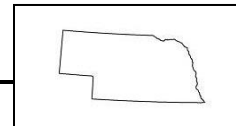


# Hepatitis C: State of Medicaid Access Report Card

## Nebraska



Estimated Number of Individuals Living with Hepatitis C: 7,900<sup>1</sup>

Grade	Summary
<b>B-</b>	<p><b>Liver Damage (Fibrosis) Restrictions:</b> Fee-For Service and all MCOs do not impose liver damage restrictions.</p> <p><b>Sobriety Restrictions:</b> FFS and all MCOs require six months' abstinence or evidence of participation in a treatment program.</p> <p><b>Prescriber Restrictions:</b> FFS and all MCOs do not impose prescriber restrictions.</p> <p><b>Recommendations to Improve Patient Access:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Remove sobriety restrictions.</li><li>• Consider waiving prior authorization for treatment-naïve patients.</li></ul> <p><i>Grade Rationale: While Nebraska has no liver damage or prescriber requirements, it continues to impose an unacceptable sobriety restriction.</i></p>

### Background

As of January 2021, Nebraska has enrolled 305,814 individuals in Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program.<sup>2</sup> Nebraska Medicaid operates a Fee-For-Service (FFS) program and contracts with three Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) available statewide: Nebraska Total Care, UnitedHealthcare Community Plan (UHC) and Healthy Blue.<sup>3</sup> Over 99.9 percent of beneficiaries are enrolled in the MCO program known as Heritage Health.<sup>4</sup>

### State of Medicaid Hepatitis C Treatment Access

Most recently in July 2021, Nebraska moved to reduce their liver damage restriction that previously required evidence of moderate liver damage (F2 or greater) to qualify for treatment.<sup>5</sup> Nebraska's FFS policy no longer requires any minimum liver damage and allows treatment of individuals at any level of fibrosis.<sup>6</sup> Additionally, beneficiaries must be evaluated for past or current history of substance use disorder or alcohol abuse.<sup>7</sup> If present, the prescriber must attest that the patient has been abstinent for six months and/or provide evidence of participation in a recovery treatment program.<sup>8</sup> Additionally, a negative urine drug screen taken within 15 days prior to the request must be submitted. Nebraska FFS does not impose any prescriber restrictions. Nebraska's FFS preferred drug list (PDL) includes Mavyret and Vosevi as preferred and Daklinza, Olysio, Sovaldi, Technivie, Viekira Pak, Zepatier, and generic versions of Harvoni and Epclusa as non-preferred.<sup>9</sup>

All three of Nebraska's MCOs either link directly to the FFS criteria and form, or publish their own form that mirrors the FFS criteria.<sup>10</sup>

### Liver Damage (Fibrosis) Restrictions

Nebraska FFS and all MCOs do not impose liver damage restrictions.

### Sobriety Restrictions

Nebraska FFS and all MCOs require that beneficiaries must be evaluated for past or current history of substance use disorder or alcohol abuse. If present, the prescriber must attest that the patient has been abstinent for six months and/or provide evidence of participation in a recovery treatment program. FFS and all MCOs require a negative drug screen taken within 15 days of treatment request to be submitted with the PA.

### Prescriber Restrictions

Nebraska FFS and all MCOs do not impose prescriber restrictions.

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

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### Medicaid<sup>11</sup>: Kevin Bagley, Director, Division of Medicaid & Long-Term Care, Department of Health and Human Services, State of Nebraska

301 Centennial Mall South, 3rd Floor, PO Box 95026, Lincoln, NE 68509-5026;  
Telephone: (402) 471-2135; Contact Email Address: [kevin.bagley@nebraska.gov](mailto:kevin.bagley@nebraska.gov)

### Drug Utilization Review (DUR) Board<sup>12</sup>: Leah Spencer, RN

Telephone: (402) 420-1500; Email Address: [DHHS.MedicaidPharmacyUnit@Nebraska.gov](mailto:DHHS.MedicaidPharmacyUnit@Nebraska.gov).

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<sup>1</sup> HepVu, Nebraska State Profile: <https://hepvu.org/state/nebraska/>

<sup>2</sup> Medicaid and CHIP in Nebraska, By-State, Medicaid.gov: <https://www.medicaid.gov/state-overviews/stateprofile.html?state=nebraska>.

<sup>3</sup> Health Plan Benefits and Contact Information, Heritage Health: <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Heritage-Health-Contacts.aspx>.

<sup>4</sup> Share of Medicaid Population Covered Under Different Delivery Systems, 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%22colId%22:%22Location%22,%22sort%22:%22asc%22%7D>.

<sup>5</sup> Pharmaceutical and Therapeutics Committee Meeting Minutes May 12, 2021, Nebraska DHHS Division of Medicaid and Long Term Care: [https://nebraska.fhsc.com/Downloads/NE\\_PTminutes-20210512.pdf](https://nebraska.fhsc.com/Downloads/NE_PTminutes-20210512.pdf).

<sup>6</sup> Nebraska Medicaid Preferred Drug List with Prior Authorization Criteria, Nebraska DHHS: [https://nebraska.fhsc.com/downloads/PDL/NE\\_PDL-20210601.pdf](https://nebraska.fhsc.com/downloads/PDL/NE_PDL-20210601.pdf). See also Prior Authorization Criteria for treatment of Chronic Hepatitis C (CHC), Nebraska DHHS: [https://nebraska.fhsc.com/Downloads/NEcriteria\\_HepatitisC.pdf](https://nebraska.fhsc.com/Downloads/NEcriteria_HepatitisC.pdf), Nebraska Medicaid Program Request for Prior Authorization of Payment Hepatitis C, Nebraska DHHS: [https://nebraska.fhsc.com/Downloads/NEfaxform\\_HepatitisC.pdf](https://nebraska.fhsc.com/Downloads/NEfaxform_HepatitisC.pdf).

<sup>7</sup> Prior Authorization Criteria for treatment of Chronic Hepatitis C (CHC), Nebraska DHHS: [https://nebraska.fhsc.com/Downloads/NEcriteria\\_HepatitisC.pdf](https://nebraska.fhsc.com/Downloads/NEcriteria_HepatitisC.pdf), Nebraska Medicaid Program Request for Prior Authorization of Payment Hepatitis C, Nebraska DHHS: [https://nebraska.fhsc.com/Downloads/NEfaxform\\_HepatitisC.pdf](https://nebraska.fhsc.com/Downloads/NEfaxform_HepatitisC.pdf).

<sup>8</sup> Prior Authorization Criteria for treatment of Chronic Hepatitis C (CHC), Nebraska DHHS: [https://nebraska.fhsc.com/Downloads/NEcriteria\\_HepatitisC.pdf](https://nebraska.fhsc.com/Downloads/NEcriteria_HepatitisC.pdf), Nebraska Medicaid Program Request for Prior Authorization of Payment Hepatitis C, Nebraska DHHS: [https://nebraska.fhsc.com/Downloads/NEfaxform\\_HepatitisC.pdf](https://nebraska.fhsc.com/Downloads/NEfaxform_HepatitisC.pdf).

<sup>9</sup> Nebraska Medicaid Preferred Drug List with Prior Authorization Criteria, Nebraska DHHS: [https://nebraska.fhsc.com/downloads/PDL/NE\\_PDL-20210601.pdf](https://nebraska.fhsc.com/downloads/PDL/NE_PDL-20210601.pdf).

<sup>10</sup> Pharmacy Resources and Physician Administered Drugs, UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of Nebraska: <https://www.uhcprovider.com/en/health-plans-by-state/nebraska-health-plans/ne-comm-plan-home/ne-cp-pharmacy.html>. See also Pharmacy, Nebraska Total Care: <https://www.nebraskatotalcare.com/providers/pharmacy.html>; Nebraska Medicaid Program Request for Prior Authorization of Payment Hepatitis C, Nebraska Total Care: [https://www.nebraskatotalcare.com/content/dam/centene/Nebraska/PDFs/Pharmacy/PA\\_Form\\_HepC\\_July\\_2021\\_508.pdf](https://www.nebraskatotalcare.com/content/dam/centene/Nebraska/PDFs/Pharmacy/PA_Form_HepC_July_2021_508.pdf); Formulary for Healthy Blue, BlueCross BlueShield Nebraska: <https://client.formularynavigator.com/Search.aspx?siteCode=1336194685> [searching DAAs and clicking on "clinical criteria" links to the FFS criteria page].

<sup>11</sup> Medicaid Directors, National Association of Medicaid Directors: <http://medicaiddirectors.org/about/medicaid-directors/>

<sup>12</sup> Nebraska Drug Use Review (DUR) Board, Nebraska Pharmacists Association: <https://www.npharm.org/content.asp?contentid=3>; See also Pharmacy Services, Nebraska Medicaid Program: [http://dhhs.ne.gov/medicaid/Pages/med\\_pharm.aspx](http://dhhs.ne.gov/medicaid/Pages/med_pharm.aspx)

Notes: DUR Board meetings are open to the public. Guidelines for public comment at DUR Board meetings are: Unsolicited presentations are limited to 5 minutes per drug or topic, regardless of the number of presenters and time will be evenly divided among presenters; Written materials may be distributed to DUR Board members if 20 copies are supplied to the Director 15 days prior to the scheduled meeting.