

Hepatitis C: State of Medicaid Access Report Card

New Hampshire

Estimated Number of Individuals Living with Hepatitis C: 7,700¹



| Grade | Summary |
|------------------|---|
| <p>B+</p> | <p>Liver Damage (Fibrosis) Restrictions: New Hampshire FFS and all MCOs do not have liver damage restrictions.</p> <p>Sobriety Restrictions: NH FFS and one MCO (AmeriHealth), require the prescriber to screen patients for substance or alcohol use during therapy. Two MCOs (Healthy Families and Well Sense) do not appear to have sobriety restrictions.</p> <p>Prescriber Restrictions: New Hampshire FFS and two MCOs (AmeriHealth and Healthy Families) require a prescription by or in consultation with a specialist or by a prescriber who has completed continuing medical education on the treatment of hepatitis C. One MCO (Well Sense) does not appear to have prescriber restrictions.</p> <p>Recommendations to Improve Patient Access:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove sobriety and prescriber restrictions. Regain parity across Fee-For-Service (FFS) and managed care organizations (MCOs) and regain transparency regarding hepatitis C coverage criteria. <p><i>Grade Rationale: While New Hampshire has no liver damage restrictions, it still requires screening and counseling for substance use, and a prescription written by or in consultation with a specialist. With minimal changes, the state could have open access. The state has been given a B+ to reflect that while some MCOs appear to have increased access by removing sobriety restrictions, a lack of transparency about the different MCO policies and a lack of parity still pose barriers to access.</i></p> |

Background

As of May 2021, New Hampshire had 220,849 individuals enrolled in Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP).² In June 2011, New Hampshire passed a law requiring mandatory enrollment in risk-based managed care for all Medicaid beneficiaries. Over 97 percent of all enrollees now participate in a managed care organization (MCO) plan.³ New Hampshire Medicaid offers three managed care plans: AmeriHealth Caritas New Hampshire, NH Healthy Families, and the Well Sense Health Plan.⁴

In 2016, New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) carved hepatitis C medications and medications for other diseases out of the MCO contracts. However, on September 1, 2019, the DHSS carved hepatitis C medications back into the MCO contracts.⁵

Effective September 1, 2019, all three MCO plans follow the State Preferred Drug List.⁶ The State Preferred Drug List lists Pegasys syringe/vial, Ribavirin, ledipasvir-sofosbuvir, Mavyret, sofosbuvir/velpatasvir, and Vosevi as the preferred medications to treat HCV, and PEG-Intron, Eplclusa, Harvoni, Harvoni Pellet Pack, Sovaldi, Sovaldi Pellet Pack, Viekira Pak, and Zepatier as the non-preferred medications to treat HCV.⁷ Trial and failure of 1 preferred medication is required before a non-preferred medication will be approved.⁸

State of Medicaid Hepatitis C Treatment Access

In 2016, New Hampshire began increasing access to hepatitis C medications. Previously, the state required severe liver damage (F3 or greater), six months of sobriety and a specialist to prescribe. New Hampshire FFS no longer imposes liver damage restrictions.⁹ NH FFS does require that a prescription be written by or in consultation with a specialist.¹⁰ The prescriber must ask if the patient is being treated for alcohol or substance use and confirm that the patient will be screened for substance or alcohol use during therapy.¹¹

AmeriHealth Caritas New Hampshire (AmeriHealth) follows the same prior authorization criteria as NH FFS. AmeriHealth does not impose fibrosis criteria.¹² Prescriptions must be written by or in consultation with a specialist, and the prescriber must confirm if the patient will be screened for substance use or alcohol use during therapy.¹³

New Hampshire Healthy Families’ (Healthy Families) treatment criteria does not have fibrosis score or sobriety restrictions.¹⁴ Treatment must be prescribed by or in consultation with a specialist.¹⁵

Well Sense Health Plan requires prior authorization but does not appear to restrict access based on fibrosis score or sobriety criteria, and the PA form does not appear to require a prescription be written by a specialist.¹⁶

Liver Damage (Fibrosis) Restrictions

Neither New Hampshire FFS nor any of the MCOs impose fibrosis score restrictions.¹⁷

Sobriety Restrictions

NH FFS and AmeriHealth require screening of patients for substance or alcohol use during therapy.¹⁸

Healthy Families and Well Sense do not appear to impose sobriety restrictions.¹⁹

Prescriber Restrictions

NH FFS and one of the MCOs (Amerihealth) require a prescription written by or in consultation with a gastroenterologist, hepatologist, infectious disease specialist or by a prescriber who has completed continuing medical education on the treatment of hepatitis C.²⁰

NH Healthy Families requires a prescription written by or in consultation with a gastroenterologist, hepatologist, or infectious disease specialist.²¹

Well Sense does not appear to have prescriber restrictions.²²

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

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¹ HepVu, New Hampshire State Profile: <https://hepvu.org/state/new-hampshire>.

² Medicaid.gov, Medicaid & CHIP in New Hampshire: <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/by-state/stateprofile.html?state=new-hampshire>.

³ Share of Medicaid Population Covered under Different Delivery Systems, The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation

<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>.

⁴ New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, Medicaid Care Management Program: <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/ombp/caremtg/index.htm>.

⁵ Magellan Medicaid Administration, Preferred Drug List and Changes to the Pharmacy Carve Out (August 2019): <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/ombp/pharmacy/documents/provider-notice-08012019.pdf>.

⁶ Ibid. Magellan Medicaid Administration, Preferred Drug List and Changes to the Pharmacy Carve Out (August 2019).

⁷ New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services Fee-for-Service Medicaid Preferred Drug List: <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/ombp/pharmacy/documents/preferred.pdf>.

⁸ Ibid. New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services Fee-for-Service Medicaid Preferred Drug List.

⁹ New Hampshire Dep't of Health and Human Services, New Hampshire Medicaid Fee-for-Service Program Hepatitis C Criteria: <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/ombp/pharmacy/documents/hepatitisccriteria.pdf>; See also New Hampshire Dep't of Health and Human Services, New Hampshire Medicaid Fee-for-Service Program Prior Authorization Drug Approval Form: Hepatitis C Medications: <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/ombp/pharmacy/documents/hepatitisccform.pdf>.

¹⁰ Ibid. New Hampshire Medicaid Fee-for-Service Program Hepatitis C Criteria; New Hampshire Medicaid Fee-for-Service Program Prior Authorization Drug Approval Form: Hepatitis C Medications.

¹¹ Ibid. New Hampshire Medicaid Fee-for-Service Program Hepatitis C Criteria; New Hampshire Medicaid Fee-for-Service Program Prior Authorization Drug Approval Form: Hepatitis C Medications.

¹² AmeriHealth Caritas New Hampshire, Prior Authorization Criteria: <https://www.amerithealthcaritasnh.com/assets/pdf/provider/resources/forms/pharmacy/prior-authorization-criteria.pdf>.

¹³ Ibid. AmeriHealth Caritas New Hampshire, Prior Authorization Criteria.

¹⁴ NH Healthy Families, Clinical Policy: Sofosbuvir (Sovaldi): [https://www.nhhealthyfamilies.com/content/dam/centene/NH%20Healthy%20Families/Medicaid/pdfs/NH-PHAR-281-Sofosbuvir-\(Sovaldi\).pdf](https://www.nhhealthyfamilies.com/content/dam/centene/NH%20Healthy%20Families/Medicaid/pdfs/NH-PHAR-281-Sofosbuvir-(Sovaldi).pdf); See also NH Healthy Families, Clinical Policy: Sofosbuvir/Velpatasvir (Epclusa): [https://www.nhhealthyfamilies.com/content/dam/centene/NH%20Healthy%20Families/Medicaid/pdfs/NH-PHAR-268-Sofosbuvir-Velpatasvir-\(Epclusa\).pdf](https://www.nhhealthyfamilies.com/content/dam/centene/NH%20Healthy%20Families/Medicaid/pdfs/NH-PHAR-268-Sofosbuvir-Velpatasvir-(Epclusa).pdf).

¹⁵ NH Healthy Families, Clinical Policy: Sofosbuvir (Sovaldi): [https://www.nhhealthyfamilies.com/content/dam/centene/NH%20Healthy%20Families/Medicaid/pdfs/NH-PHAR-281-Sofosbuvir-\(Sovaldi\).pdf](https://www.nhhealthyfamilies.com/content/dam/centene/NH%20Healthy%20Families/Medicaid/pdfs/NH-PHAR-281-Sofosbuvir-(Sovaldi).pdf); See also NH Healthy Families, Clinical Policy: Sofosbuvir/Velpatasvir (Epclusa): [https://www.nhhealthyfamilies.com/content/dam/centene/NH%20Healthy%20Families/Medicaid/pdfs/NH-PHAR-268-Sofosbuvir-Velpatasvir-\(Epclusa\).pdf](https://www.nhhealthyfamilies.com/content/dam/centene/NH%20Healthy%20Families/Medicaid/pdfs/NH-PHAR-268-Sofosbuvir-Velpatasvir-(Epclusa).pdf).

¹⁶ Well Sense Health Plan, Pharmacy Policy Hepatitis C (Updated June 1, 2021): <https://www.wellsense.org/-/media/3d69da8c8e50487ea6a04a44650157d2.ashx>.

¹⁷ New Hampshire Dep't of Health and Human Services, New Hampshire Medicaid Fee-for-Service Program Hepatitis C Criteria: <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/ombp/pharmacy/documents/hepatitisccriteria.pdf>; See also New Hampshire Dep't of Health and Human Services, New Hampshire Medicaid Fee-for-Service Program Prior Authorization Drug Approval Form: Hepatitis C Medications: <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/ombp/pharmacy/documents/hepatitisccform.pdf>; See also AmeriHealth Caritas New Hampshire, Prior Authorization Criteria: <https://www.amerithealthcaritasnh.com/assets/pdf/provider/resources/forms/pharmacy/prior-authorization-criteria.pdf>; See also NH Healthy Families, Clinical Policy: Sofosbuvir (Sovaldi), [https://www.nhhealthyfamilies.com/content/dam/centene/NH%20Healthy%20Families/Medicaid/pdfs/NH-PHAR-281-Sofosbuvir-\(Sovaldi\).pdf](https://www.nhhealthyfamilies.com/content/dam/centene/NH%20Healthy%20Families/Medicaid/pdfs/NH-PHAR-281-Sofosbuvir-(Sovaldi).pdf); See also NH Healthy Families, Clinical Policy: Sofosbuvir/Velpatasvir (Epclusa): [https://www.nhhealthyfamilies.com/content/dam/centene/NH%20Healthy%20Families/Medicaid/pdfs/NH-PHAR-268-Sofosbuvir-Velpatasvir-\(Epclusa\).pdf](https://www.nhhealthyfamilies.com/content/dam/centene/NH%20Healthy%20Families/Medicaid/pdfs/NH-PHAR-268-Sofosbuvir-Velpatasvir-(Epclusa).pdf); See also Well Sense Health Plan, Pharmacy Policy Hepatitis C (Updated January 1, 2021): <https://www.wellsense.org/-/media/c949bccee35842eb8724f57ab15a747c.ashx>.

¹⁸ New Hampshire Dep't of Health and Human Services, New Hampshire Medicaid Fee-for-Service Program Hepatitis C Criteria: <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/ombp/pharmacy/documents/hepatitisccriteria.pdf>; See also New Hampshire Dep't of Health and Human Services, New Hampshire Medicaid Fee-for-Service Program Prior Authorization Drug Approval Form: Hepatitis C Medications: <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/ombp/pharmacy/documents/hepatitisccform.pdf>; See also AmeriHealth Caritas New Hampshire, Prior Authorization Criteria: <https://www.amerithealthcaritasnh.com/assets/pdf/provider/resources/forms/pharmacy/prior-authorization-criteria.pdf>.

¹⁹ NH Healthy Families, Clinical Policy: Sofosbuvir (Sovaldi): [https://www.nhhealthyfamilies.com/content/dam/centene/NH%20Healthy%20Families/Medicaid/pdfs/NH-PHAR-281-Sofosbuvir-\(Sovaldi\).pdf](https://www.nhhealthyfamilies.com/content/dam/centene/NH%20Healthy%20Families/Medicaid/pdfs/NH-PHAR-281-Sofosbuvir-(Sovaldi).pdf); See also NH Healthy Families, Clinical Policy: Sofosbuvir/Velpatasvir (Epclusa): [https://www.nhhealthyfamilies.com/content/dam/centene/NH%20Healthy%20Families/Medicaid/pdfs/NH-PHAR-268-Sofosbuvir-Velpatasvir-\(Epclusa\).pdf](https://www.nhhealthyfamilies.com/content/dam/centene/NH%20Healthy%20Families/Medicaid/pdfs/NH-PHAR-268-Sofosbuvir-Velpatasvir-(Epclusa).pdf).

²⁰ Well Sense Health Plan, Pharmacy Policy Hepatitis C (Updated June 1, 2021): <https://www.wellsense.org/-/media/3d69da8c8e50487ea6a04a44650157d2.ashx>.

²¹ New Hampshire Dep't of Health and Human Services, New Hampshire Medicaid Fee-for-Service Program Hepatitis C Criteria: <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/ombp/pharmacy/documents/hepatitisccriteria.pdf>; See also New Hampshire Dep't of Health and Human Services, New Hampshire Medicaid Fee-for-Service Program Prior Authorization Drug Approval Form: Hepatitis C Medications: <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/ombp/pharmacy/documents/hepatitisccform.pdf>; See also AmeriHealth Caritas New Hampshire, Prior Authorization Criteria: <https://www.amerithealthcaritasnh.com/assets/pdf/provider/resources/forms/pharmacy/prior-authorization-criteria.pdf>.

²² NH Healthy Families, Clinical Policy: Sofosbuvir (Sovaldi): [https://www.nhhealthyfamilies.com/content/dam/centene/NH%20Healthy%20Families/Medicaid/pdfs/NH-PHAR-281-Sofosbuvir-\(Sovaldi\).pdf](https://www.nhhealthyfamilies.com/content/dam/centene/NH%20Healthy%20Families/Medicaid/pdfs/NH-PHAR-281-Sofosbuvir-(Sovaldi).pdf); See also NH Healthy Families, Clinical Policy: Sofosbuvir/Velpatasvir (Epclusa): [https://www.nhhealthyfamilies.com/content/dam/centene/NH%20Healthy%20Families/Medicaid/pdfs/NH-PHAR-268-Sofosbuvir-Velpatasvir-\(Epclusa\).pdf](https://www.nhhealthyfamilies.com/content/dam/centene/NH%20Healthy%20Families/Medicaid/pdfs/NH-PHAR-268-Sofosbuvir-Velpatasvir-(Epclusa).pdf).

²³ National Association of Medicaid Directors, Medicaid Directors <https://medicaidirectors.org/about/medicaid-directors/>.

²⁴ Drug Utilization Review Board, Public Hearing (December 2, 2021): <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/ombp/pharmacy/documents/dur-board-meeting-12022021.pdf>.