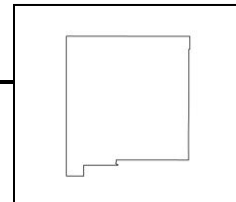


Hepatitis C: State of Medicaid Access Report Card

New Mexico

Estimated Number of Individuals Living with Hepatitis C: 26,700¹



| Grade | Summary |
|--|---|
| <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; color: #8B0000;">A</p> | <p>Liver Damage (Fibrosis) Restrictions: New Mexico Fee-For-Service (FFS) and managed care organizations (MCOs) do not impose liver damage restrictions.</p> <p>Sobriety Restrictions: New Mexico FFS and MCOs do not impose sobriety restrictions.</p> <p>Prescriber Restrictions: New Mexico FFS and two MCOs, BlueCross BlueShield of New Mexico and Presbyterian Health Plan, do not impose prescriber restrictions. One MCO, Western Sky Community Care, requires that a prescription be written by or in consultation with a specialist.</p> <p>Recommendations to Improve Patient Access:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain open access and transparency regarding hepatitis C coverage requirements. • Ensure parity across FFS and MCO plans. • Remove prior authorization for patients who qualify for simplified treatment. <p><i>Grade Rationale: New Mexico has increased access to hepatitis C treatment does not impose liver damage, sobriety, or prescriber requirements. Most MCOs fully comply with New Mexico's requirement to adhere to FFS standards. New Mexico could raise its grade to an "A+" by ensuring full parity and removing prior authorization requirements.</i></p> |

Background

As of May 2021, New Mexico had 838,590 individuals enrolled in Medicaid known as Centennial Care and Children's Health Insurance Program.² Centennial Care operates a Fee-For-Service (FFS) program and contracts with three managed care organizations (MCOs): BlueCross BlueShield of New Mexico (BCBS), Presbyterian Health Plan (Presbyterian), and Western Sky Community Care (Western Sky).³ Most beneficiaries, nearly 83 percent, are enrolled in an MCO and the remaining over 17 percent participate in FFS or other programs.⁴

State of Medicaid Hepatitis C Treatment Access

The state imposes the same requirements on both the FFS and MCO programs and specifies that both programs use a standardized prior authorization form and the *Uniform New Mexico HCV Checklist for Centennial Care (Uniform Checklist)*, most recently revised August 31, 2021.⁵ New Mexico does not impose liver damage requirements but does require a diagnosis for chronic hepatitis C.⁶ New Mexico FFS and MCOs may not use "active alcohol or drug use" or "the specialty of the requesting provider" as "screening criteria for the treatment, approval or denial process".⁷ All patients are to be referred to a community health worker, care coordinator, or specialty pharmacist when treatment is requested.⁸ MCOs may implement the use of preferred drugs if "the level of evidence and effectiveness . . . is equal or great, and no drug interactions are of concern".⁹

The *Uniform Checklist*, which must be submitted with a prior authorization request, requires proof of chronic hepatitis C infection but allows the provider to indicate when a diagnosis is pending.¹⁰ Most required labs are expected to be within six months of the request.¹¹ Depending on certain conditions, such as cirrhosis or hepatocellular carcinoma, the *Uniform Checklist* indicates that the patient's treatment should be managed with a specialist.¹² If the patient is treatment experienced, the MCO may require the provider to consult with Project ECHO.¹³ Providers are expected to attest that they believe their patient "is capable of full adherence" to the requested treatment.¹⁴ Providers are also directed to consider referral to an addiction specialist for counseling and treatment if the patient has a current substance use disorder.¹⁵

While New Mexico requires MCOs to use the *Uniform Checklist*, the document has been revised but not consistently updated across the Health Services Department platform. For example, the most recent *Uniform Checklist* appears to have been revised in August 31, 2021. However, a provider searching for the *Uniform Checklist* in the Medicaid Portal would find a document last revised in April 2018.¹⁶

All MCOs appear to comply with the FFS requirements.

BCBS requires prior authorization to access hepatitis C treatment, which are considered specialty medications.¹⁷ These medications must be dispensed at a contracted specialty pharmacy.¹⁸ BCBS identifies Mavyret as preferred.¹⁹ The plan indicates that its hepatitis C coverage requirements are aligned with the *Uniform Checklist*, though the BCBS provider website also indicates that prior authorizations should be submitted to CoverMyMeds and referrals for specialty pharmacy should be made to Accredo.²⁰ It is unclear whether additional requirements are applied for these forms.

Presbyterian requires prior authorization and requires a specialty pharmacy to dispense hepatitis C treatment.²¹ Presbyterian requires that a patient be diagnosed with chronic hepatitis C with laboratory documentation of genotype and subtype, and that certain laboratory tests and treatment experience information be submitted. Presbyterian does not appear to impose sobriety or prescribing requirements.²² Mavyret is the preferred agent.²³

Western Sky applies prior authorization requirements to hepatitis C treatment.²⁴ Mavyret, the preferred agent, must also be filled by a specialty pharmacy.²⁵ Western Sky's Pharmacy Benefit Manager, Involve Pharmacy Solutions, provides approval criteria for Mavyret, requiring a chronic hepatitis C diagnosis and associated laboratory testing and a prescription "by or in consultation with a gastroenterologist, hepatologist, or infectious disease specialist, or provider who has expertise in treating hepatitis C based on a certified training program".²⁶ There are no sobriety documentation requirements.

New Mexico has progressively worked to address hepatitis C across the care continuum from screening and diagnosis to treatment. In 2016, the New Mexico Hepatitis C Coalition (consisting of members of the patient advocacy and health professional community) published a *Statewide Comprehensive Plan* to address the epidemic.²⁷ New Mexico's Medical Assistance Division (MAD) has taken important steps to incorporate MCOs in these efforts through Department Directives. In 2019, the New England Journal of Medicine published a case study of New Mexico's hepatitis C elimination efforts for beneficiaries in its Medicaid program, including the change allowing all individuals living with HCV (not just those with advanced fibrosis) to access treatment.²⁸ The case study documented statewide efforts to implement uniform monitoring and treatment efforts, such as the development of a common reporting system and the uniform checklist.²⁹

Liver Damage (Fibrosis) Restrictions

New Mexico FFS and MCOs do not impose liver damage restrictions but require a diagnosis of chronic hepatitis C.

Sobriety Restrictions

New Mexico FFS and MCOs do not impose sobriety requirements. The *Uniform New Mexico HCV Checklist for Centennial Care* recommends if a beneficiary has alcohol or substance use history that the patient be referred to an addiction specialist for counseling and treatment.

Prescriber Restrictions

New Mexico FFS and two MCOs, BlueCross BlueShield of New Mexico and Presbyterian Health Plan, do not impose prescriber restrictions. One MCO, Western Sky Community Care, requires that a prescription be written by or in consultation with a specialist.

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

Medicaid:³⁰ Nicole Comeaux, Division Director, Medical Assistance Division, New Mexico Human Services Department

P.O. Box 2348, Santa Fe, NM, 87504-2348;

Telephone: (505) 827-3100; Consolidated Customer Service Center: (800) 283-4465; E-mail Address: MADInfo.HSD@state.nm.us

¹ New Mexico State Profile, HepVu (Accessed December 2021): <https://hepvu.org/state/new-mexico/>.

² Medicaid and CHIP in New Mexico, Medicaid.gov (Accessed December 2021): <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/by-state/stateprofile.html?state=new-mexico>.

³ Centennial Care Managed Care Organizations, Looking for Information, Human Services Department (Accessed December 2021): <https://www.hsd.state.nm.us/lookingforinformation/centennial-care-managed-care-organizations/>.

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

⁵ Uniform New Mexico Hepatitis C Virus Checklist – Repeal and Replace MAD 634 Form, December 22, 2020 (Accessed December 2021): <https://www.hsd.state.nm.us/wp-content/uploads/SUPPLEMENT-20-13-UNIFORM-NEW-MEXICO-HEPATITIS-C-VIRUS-CHECKLIST-MAD-634-UPDATED-08.30.2021.pdf>.

⁶ Ibid. Uniform New Mexico Hepatitis C Virus Checklist – Repeal and Replace MAD 634 Form, December 22, 2020 (Accessed December 2021); See also Managed Care Policy Manual, Medical Assistance Division, Human Services Department, at p. 389 (Accessed December 2021): <https://www.hsd.state.nm.us/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Centennial-Care-Managed-Care-Policy-M.pdf>.

⁷ Ibid. Managed Care Policy Manual, Medical Assistance Division, Human Services Department, at p. 389 (Accessed December 2021).

⁸ Ibid. Managed Care Policy Manual, Medical Assistance Division, Human Services Department, at p. 389 (Accessed December 2021).

⁹ Ibid. Managed Care Policy Manual, Medical Assistance Division, Human Services Department, at p. 390 (Accessed December 2021).

¹⁰ Ibid. Uniform New Mexico Hepatitis C Virus Checklist – Repeal and Replace MAD 634 Form, December 22, 2020 (Accessed December 2021).

¹¹ Ibid. Uniform New Mexico Hepatitis C Virus Checklist – Repeal and Replace MAD 634 Form, December 22, 2020 (Accessed December 2021).

¹² Ibid. Uniform New Mexico Hepatitis C Virus Checklist – Repeal and Replace MAD 634 Form, December 22, 2020 (Accessed December 2021).

¹³ Ibid. Uniform New Mexico Hepatitis C Virus Checklist – Repeal and Replace MAD 634 Form, December 22, 2020 (Accessed December 2021).

¹⁴ Ibid. Uniform New Mexico Hepatitis C Virus Checklist – Repeal and Replace MAD 634 Form, December 22, 2020 (Accessed December 2021).

¹⁵ Ibid. Uniform New Mexico Hepatitis C Virus Checklist – Repeal and Replace MAD 634 Form, December 22, 2020 (Accessed December 2021).

¹⁶ Ibid. Uniform New Mexico Hepatitis C Virus Checklist – MAD 634 Revised, April 17, 2018 (Accessed December 2021): <https://nmmedicaid.portal.conduent.com/static/PDFs/MAD634.pdf>.

¹⁷ A Section of the Provider Reference Manual 2020 August 2020, Blue Cross Community Centennial, at p. S108 (Accessed December 2021): https://www.bcbsnm.com/pdf/provider_ref_manual/centennial_prm.pdf; See also Drug List Formulary, Blue Cross Community Centennial, April 2021 (Accessed December 2021): <https://www.bcbsnm.com/community-centennial/pdf/cc-drug-list-nm.pdf>.

¹⁸ Ibid. A Section of the Provider Reference Manual 2020 August 2020, Blue Cross Community Centennial, at p. S108 (Accessed December 2021).

¹⁹ Blue Cross Community Centennial, Drug List, October 2019 (Accessed December 2021): https://www.bcbsnm.com/pdf/rx/cc_drug_list_nm_2019.pdf

- ²⁰ Medicaid, BlueCross BlueShield New Mexico (Accessed December 2021): <https://www.bcbsnm.com/provider/pharmacy/medicaid.html>; See also Medical Assistance Program Manual Supplement, Blue Cross Community Centennial, Effective August 30, 2021 (Accessed December 2021): <https://www.bcbsnm.com/community-centennial/pdf/cc-uniform-hcv-checklist-nm.pdf>; See also Prescription and Enrollment Form Hepatitis C, Accredited (Accessed December 2021): https://accredio.com/prescribers/referral_forms/hepatitis_c.pdf.
- ²¹ Prior Authorization Criteria Document for Presbyterian Commercial, Health Insurance Exchange and Medicaid Plans, Presbyterian Health Plan (PHP), Effective: 09/01/2021, at p. 102 (Accessed December 2021): <http://docs.phs.org/idc/groups/public/@phs/@php/documents/phscontent/wcmdev1001476.pdf>.
- ²² Ibid. Prior Authorization Criteria Document for Presbyterian Commercial, Health Insurance Exchange and Medicaid Plans, Presbyterian Health Plan (PHP), Effective: 09/01/2021, at p. 102 (Accessed December 2021).
- ²³ PHP Centennial Care Formulary/Preferred Drug Listing, Presbyterian Centennial Care, Effective 09/01/2021 (Accessed December 2021): <https://onbaseext.phs.org/PELAppNet/docpop/docpop.aspx>.
- ²⁴ Preferred Drug List, Western Sky Community Care (Accessed December 2021): <https://pharmacy.envolvehealth.com/content/dam/centene/envolve-pharmacy-solutions/pdfs/PDL/FORMULARY-WesternSkyCommunityCare.pdf>.
- ²⁵ Ibid. Preferred Drug List, Western Sky Community Care (Accessed December 2021).
- ²⁶ Clinical Policy: Glecaprevir/Pibrentasvir (Mavyret), Envolve Pharmacy Solutions, Last reviewed August 2021 (Accessed December 2021): [https://pharmacy.envolvehealth.com/content/dam/centene/envolve-pharmacy-solutions/pdfs/PriorAuthorizationGuidelines/PAGuidelinesQ22021/ERX.SPA.215%20Glecaprevir-Pibrentasvir%20\(Mavyret\).pdf](https://pharmacy.envolvehealth.com/content/dam/centene/envolve-pharmacy-solutions/pdfs/PriorAuthorizationGuidelines/PAGuidelinesQ22021/ERX.SPA.215%20Glecaprevir-Pibrentasvir%20(Mavyret).pdf).
- ²⁷ Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) in New Mexico: Statewide Comprehensive Plan and Profile of the Epidemic, New Mexico Hepatitis C Coalition, June 2016 (Accessed December 2021): <https://www.nmhealth.org/publication/view/plan/2219/>.
- ²⁸ David R. Scrase, et al., A Collaborative Model to Expand Medicaid Treatment Coverage for Chronic Hepatitis C Virus, *New England Journal of Medicine* (February 13, 2019): <https://catalyst.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/CAT.19.0011>.
- ²⁹ Ibid. David R. Scrase, et al., A Collaborative Model to Expand Medicaid Treatment Coverage for Chronic Hepatitis C Virus, *New England Journal of Medicine* (February 13, 2019).
- ³⁰ Medical Assistance Division, About the Department, Human Services Department (Accessed December 2021): https://www.hsd.state.nm.us/about_the_department/medical_assistance_division/.