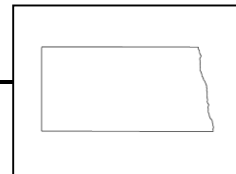


Hepatitis C: State of Medicaid Access Report Card

North Dakota

Estimated Number of Individuals Living with Hepatitis C: 2,600¹



Grade	Summary
C+	<p>Liver Damage (Fibrosis) Restrictions: Fee-For-Service (FFS), Primary Care Case Management (PCCM), and Managed Care Organization (MCO) BlueCross BlueShield North Dakota do not impose liver damage restrictions.</p> <p>Sobriety Restrictions: FFS/PCCM and BlueCross BlueShield North Dakota require three months of abstinence from alcohol and injection drug use documented by at least 2 drug and alcohol tests.</p> <p>Prescriber Restrictions: FFS/PCCM and BlueCross BlueShield North Dakota require a prescription to be written by or in consultation with a specialist in certain clinical scenarios. Primary care providers may prescribe treatment for treatment naïve, uncomplicated cases.</p> <p>Recommendations to Improve Patient Access:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Remove sobriety requirements.Maintain parity across FFS and MCO and transparency regarding hepatitis C coverage requirements. <p><i>Grade Rationale: While North Dakota does not impose liver damage requirements and has reduced its sobriety restriction from 12 months to three months, this discriminatory policy still prevents many individuals from accessing treatment. Most recently, North Dakota has made improvements in their prescriber restriction.</i></p>

Overview

As of May 2021, North Dakota had 111,357 individuals enrolled in Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program.² The state operates three different Medicaid programs. North Dakota contracts directly with primary care physicians through a Primary Care Case Management (PCCM) program that covers 42 percent of beneficiaries.³ The Fee-For-Service (FFS) program has 34 percent of enrollees.⁴ After the enactment of the Affordable Care Act, North Dakota opted to increase its Medicaid enrollment by contracting with a Managed Care Organization (MCO), which now covers 24 percent of beneficiaries.⁵ As of January 1, 2022, the state contracts with one MCO plan, BlueCross BlueShield North Dakota (BCBSND).⁶ BCBSND follows the FFS criteria.⁷

State of Medicaid Hepatitis C Treatment Access

North Dakota’s FFS/PCCM/MCO require a diagnosis of chronic hepatitis C to qualify for treatment.⁸ Diagnosis is documented by 2 positive HCV RNA levels at least 6 months apart for fibrosis F1 and below, or 1 positive HCV RNA level within the last 12 months for fibrosis F2 and above. A patient must sign the *Hepatitis C Patient Consent Form* and attest that they will continue treatment without interruption for the duration of therapy. Beneficiaries must have established compliant behavior by attending scheduled provider visits and filling maintenance medications on time as shown in the individual’s prescription medication history. Criteria for retreatment include enrollment in a substance use treatment program and using pharmacy claims history to assess adherence. A patient must have life expectancy of “not less than 12 months due to non-liver related comorbid conditions.”⁹ The FFS/PCCM includes the following Direct-Acting Antivirals (DAAs) on the Preferred Drug List (PDL): Harvoni, Mavyret, sofosbuvir/velpatasvir, Sovaldi, and Vosevi. A beneficiary must fail all preferred treatment options indicated for the patient’s genotype before a non-preferred agent will be considered for approval.¹⁰

Liver Damage (Fibrosis) Restrictions

FFS/PCCM and BCBSND do not have any liver damage requirements. The PA form requests documentation of the patient’s fibrosis score if available.¹¹

Sobriety Restrictions

FFS/PCCM and BCBSND require a prescriber to document that a patient has been abstinent from alcohol and injection drug use for three months. For patients who are enrolled or have completed a substance use treatment program in the past 3 months, the PA form requires a drug and alcohol test no more than 30 days prior to treatment. Patients must also be receiving treatment from an addiction medicine provider. For patients who have not completed a substance use treatment program within the past 3 months, the PA form requires “2 drug

and alcohol tests, dated at least 3 months apart, with the most current test completed within 30 days of the request date.” All patients and providers must sign a commitment form regarding abstinence and adherence.¹²

Prescriber Restrictions

FFS/PCCM and BCBSND allow a primary care provider to prescribe treatment for treatment naïve, uncomplicated cases. A specialist must prescribe in certain clinical cases such as decompensated cirrhosis, known hepatocellular carcinoma, HIV co-infection, and pregnancy. A specialist must be consulted for compensated cirrhosis or re-treatment.¹³

Points of Contact for Questions & Concerns about North Dakota’s State of Medicaid Hepatitis C Access

Medicaid¹⁴: Caprice Knapp, Director, Medical Services Division, Department of Human Services, State of North Dakota
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Pharmacy Provider Drug Utilization Review (DUR) Board¹⁵: Brendan Joyce, PharmD, Administrator, Pharmacy Services
Email Address: bjoyce@nd.gov

¹ HepVu, North Dakota State Profile: <https://hepvu.org/state/north-dakota/>

² Medicaid and CHIP in North Dakota, By-State, Medicaid.gov (Accessed December 2021): <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/by-state/stateprofile.html?state=north-dakota>

³ Share of Medicaid Population Covered Under Different Delivery Systems, Medicaid Managed Care Market Tracker, The 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%22colId%22:%22Location%22,%22sort%22:%22asc%22%7D>

⁴ Ibid. Share of Medicaid Population Covered Under Different Delivery Systems

⁵ Ibid. Share of Medicaid Population Covered Under Different Delivery Systems

⁶ Medicaid Expansion, North Dakota Department of Human Services (Accessed December 2021): <http://www.nd.gov/dhs/medicaidexpansion/>

⁷ Medicaid Expansion Provider Pharmacy Information, BlueCross BlueShield North Dakota Pharmacy Program (Accessed December 2021) <https://www.bcbsnd.com/providers/policies-precertification/pharmacy>

⁸ Preferred Drug List with Prior Authorization Criteria, North Dakota Medicaid, ND Department of Human Services, Effective: January 1, 2022; Version 2022.1 (Accessed December 2021):

http://hidesigns.com/assets/files/ndmedicaid/2022/ND_PDL%202022.1.pdf; see also Hepatitis C Treatments Prior Authorization Form, North Dakota Medicaid, ND Department of Human Services (Accessed December 2021): https://nddruglookup.hidinc.com/forms/Hep_C_form.pdf

⁹ Ibid. Preferred Drug List with Prior Authorization Criteria, North Dakota Medicaid, ND Department of Human Services; see also Hepatitis C Treatments Prior Authorization Form, North Dakota Medicaid, ND Department of Human Services

¹⁰ Ibid. Preferred Drug List with Prior Authorization Criteria, North Dakota Medicaid, ND Department of Human Services; see also Hepatitis C Treatments Prior Authorization Form, North Dakota Medicaid, ND Department of Human Services

¹¹ Ibid. Preferred Drug List with Prior Authorization Criteria, North Dakota Medicaid, ND Department of Human Services; see also Hepatitis C Treatments Prior Authorization Form, North Dakota Medicaid, ND Department of Human Services

¹² Ibid. Preferred Drug List with Prior Authorization Criteria, North Dakota Medicaid, ND Department of Human Services; see also Hepatitis C Treatments Prior Authorization Form, North Dakota Medicaid, ND Department of Human Services

¹³ Ibid. Preferred Drug List with Prior Authorization Criteria, North Dakota Medicaid, ND Department of Human Services; see also Hepatitis C Treatments Prior Authorization Form, North Dakota Medicaid, ND Department of Human Services

¹⁴ Contact Information, National Association of State Medicaid Directors (Accessed December 2021): <http://medicaiddirectors.org/about/medicaid-directors/>

¹⁵ Pharmacy Provider Drug Utilization Review Board, Medicaid Provider Information, ND Department of Human Services (Accessed December 2021): <http://www.nd.gov/dhs/services/medicalserv/medicaid/provider-pharmacy-dur.html>; See also DUR Board, Health Information Designs (Accessed December 2021): <http://www.hidesigns.com/ndmedicaid/dur-board/>