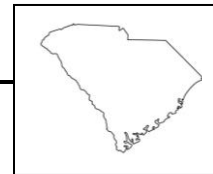


# Hepatitis C: State of Medicaid Access Report Card

## South Carolina

Estimated Number of Individuals Living with Hepatitis C: 35,600<sup>1</sup>



Grade	Summary
D	<p><b>Liver Damage (Fibrosis) Restrictions:</b> Fee-For-Service (FFS) and two managed care organizations (MCOs), First Choice, and Healthy Blue, do not impose liver damage requirements. Three MCOs, Absolute Total Care, Humana Healthy Horizons, and Molina Healthcare, do not make hepatitis C coverage criteria publicly available.</p> <p><b>Sobriety Restrictions:</b> FFS appears to require six months' abstinence from alcohol and substances. First Choice requires the provider to attest that they have provided substance use counseling and offered referral for substance use disorder treatment. Healthy Blue does not appear to impose sobriety restrictions. Three MCOs, Absolute Total Care, Humana Healthy Horizons, and Molina Healthcare, do not make hepatitis C coverage criteria publicly available.</p> <p><b>Prescriber Restrictions:</b> FFS appears to require that treatment be prescribed by or in consultation with a gastroenterology, infectious disease, or hepatology specialist. First Choice requires treatment to be prescribed by a specialist. Healthy Blue does not appear to impose prescriber restrictions. Three MCOs, Absolute Total Care, Humana Healthy Horizons, and Molina Healthcare, do not make hepatitis C coverage criteria publicly available.</p> <p><b>Recommendations to Improve Patient Access:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eliminate sobriety and prescriber restrictions.</li> <li>• Restore parity across FFS and MCOs and transparency regarding hepatitis C coverage criteria.</li> </ul> <p><i>Grade Rationale: As a result of annulling the carve out of hepatitis C medication from MCO contracts effective July 1, 2020, South Carolina has lost parity and transparency across FFS and MCO programs. While FFS improved access by removing minimum fibrosis requirements, the state continues to impose stringent sobriety and prescriber restrictions. To improve their grade, in addition to removing sobriety and prescriber restrictions, the state should publish updated, less stringent criteria and require MCOs to make public their coverage criteria.</i></p>

### Overview

As of June 2021, South Carolina had 1,167,790 individuals enrolled in Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program.<sup>2</sup> South Carolina Medicaid, known as Healthy Connections, contracts with managed care organizations (MCOs) and operates a Fee-For-Service (FFS) program. Most beneficiaries, over 77 percent, are enrolled the MCO program.<sup>3</sup> The remaining 23 percent participate in FFS. On July 1, 2015, the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services "carved out" hepatitis C medications from MCO contracts.<sup>4</sup> However, this carve out was reversed effective July 1, 2020 and hepatitis C prior authorization requirements are now determined by individual MCOs.<sup>5</sup> South Carolina contracts with 5 MCOs: Absolute Total Care, First Choice by Select Health of South Carolina (First Choice), Healthy Blue, Humana Healthy Horizons, and Molina Healthcare.<sup>6</sup>

### State of Medicaid Hepatitis C Treatment Access

Prior to 2017, South Carolina Fee-for-Service (FFS) required severe liver damage (F3 or greater) to access treatment.<sup>7</sup> The current FFS PA form, last updated in March 2019, requires a diagnosis of chronic hepatitis C including HCV antibody, RNA, and genotype lab results collected no more than 12 months prior to request.<sup>8</sup> Notably, South Carolina appears to impose stringent sobriety and prescriber restrictions, including six months' abstinence and the requirement for treatment to be prescribed by or in consultation with a specialist. The PA form also requires HCV RNA levels at four and 12 weeks of treatment.<sup>9</sup> The Preferred Drug List (PDL) includes Mavyret, sofosbuvir/velpatasvir, and Vosevi.<sup>10</sup>

As a result of annulling the carve out of hepatitis C medication from MCO contracts, South Carolina lost parity and transparency across FFS and MCO programs. Absolute Total Care, Humana Healthy Horizons, and Molina Healthcare do not make hepatitis C coverage criteria publicly available. Absolute Total Care and Humana Healthy Horizons preferred agents include Mavyret and sofosbuvir/velpatasvir.<sup>11,12</sup> Molina Healthcare preferred agents include ledipasvir/sofosbuvir and sofosbuvir/velpatasvir, Solvadi, Vosevi, and Zepatier.<sup>13</sup>

FirstChoice imposes less stringent sobriety criteria than FFS, and similar fibrosis and prescriber restrictions. The PA form requires HCV genotype, RNA, and other relevant labs to be collected within three months of starting therapy. It also inquires about compliance issues and previous treatment for hepatitis C. Preferred drugs include Mavyret, sofosbuvir/velpatasvir, and ledipasvir/sofosbuvir.<sup>14</sup>

Healthy Blue appears to impose less stringent sobriety and prescriber criteria than FFS. Healthy Blue requires a diagnosis of chronic hepatitis C which includes genotype, HCV RNA, and baseline evaluation of liver fibrosis. Preferred agents include Mavyret and sofosbuvir/velpatasvir.<sup>15</sup>

## Liver Damage (Fibrosis) Restrictions

FFS does not impose liver damage requirements, however the PA form does inquire about staging of liver disease.<sup>16</sup> The PDL states “effective January 1, 2017, SC coverage includes F0-F4.”<sup>17</sup>

First Choice and Healthy Blue do not appear to impose liver damage requirements.<sup>18,19</sup>

Absolute Total Care, Humana Healthy Horizons, and Molina Healthcare do not make hepatitis C coverage criteria publicly available.

## Sobriety Restrictions

FFS appears to require six months’ abstinence from alcohol and substances. The PA form also inquires whether the patient “has completed or is participating in a recovery program, or receiving substance or alcohol abuse counseling services, or seeing an addiction specialist as part of chronic hepatitis C treatment.”<sup>20</sup>

First Choice requires the provider to attest that they have provided substance use counseling and offered referral for substance use disorder treatment.<sup>21</sup>

Healthy Blue does not appear to impose sobriety restrictions.<sup>22</sup>

Absolute Total Care, Humana Healthy Horizons, and Molina Healthcare do not make hepatitis C coverage criteria publicly available.

## Prescriber Restrictions

FFS appears to require that treatment be prescribed by or in consultation with a gastroenterology, infectious disease, or hepatology specialist.<sup>23</sup> The PA form requests the prescriber specialty and inquires “if case was presented at SC Telehealth, please provide date presented.”

First Choice requires that treatment be prescribed by a specialist in hepatology, gastroenterology, infectious disease, HIV, or liver transplant.<sup>24</sup>

Healthy Blue does not appear to impose prescriber restrictions.<sup>25</sup>

Absolute Total Care, Humana Healthy Horizons, and Molina Healthcare do not make hepatitis C coverage criteria publicly available.

## Points of Contact for Questions & Concerns about South Carolina’s State of Medicaid Hepatitis C Access

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<sup>1</sup> South Carolina State Profile, HepVu: <https://hepvu.org/state/south-carolina/>.

<sup>2</sup> Medicaid and CHIP in South Carolina, By-State, Medicaid.gov (Accessed December 2021): <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/by-state/stateprofile.html?state=south-carolina>.

<sup>3</sup> 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%22colId%22:%22Location%22,%22sort%22:%22asc%22%7D>.

<sup>4</sup> Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) Pharmacy Benefit Carve Out, South Carolina Health Connections Medicaid Bulletin, May, 21, 2015 (Accessed December 2021):

<https://www.scdhhs.gov/sites/default/files/Hepatitis%20C%20Virus%20%28HCV%29%20MCO%20Carveout.pdf>.

<sup>5</sup> July 2020 Coverage and Reimbursement Changes, South Carolina Health Connections Medicaid Bulletin, June 30, 2020 (Accessed December 2021) <https://www.scdhhs.gov/sites/default/files/%282020-06-30%29%20Coverage%20and%20Reimbursement%20Changes%20Bulletin.pdf>.

<sup>6</sup> Managed Care Health Plan Contact Information, South Carolina Medicaid Healthy Connections (Accessed December 2021) <https://msp.scdhhs.gov/managedcare/resource/managed-care-health-plan-contact-information>

<sup>7</sup> Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee 9/28/2016 Meeting Notes: [http://southcarolina.fhsc.com/Downloads/provider/PTMinutes\\_20160928.pdf](http://southcarolina.fhsc.com/Downloads/provider/PTMinutes_20160928.pdf).

<sup>8</sup> Hepatitis C- Antiviral Agents Prior Authorization Form, South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Updated March 18, 2019 (Accessed December 2021): [https://southcarolina.fhsc.com/Downloads/provider/SCRx\\_PAform\\_Hepatitis\\_C.pdf](https://southcarolina.fhsc.com/Downloads/provider/SCRx_PAform_Hepatitis_C.pdf).

<sup>9</sup> Ibid. Hepatitis C- Antiviral Agents Prior Authorization Form, South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services.

<sup>10</sup> South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Preferred Drug List, July 1, 2021 (Accessed December 2021): [https://southcarolina.fhsc.com/Downloads/provider/SCpdl\\_listing\\_20210701.pdf](https://southcarolina.fhsc.com/Downloads/provider/SCpdl_listing_20210701.pdf).

<sup>11</sup> Preferred Drug List, Absolute Total Care Health Connections, Updated December 1, 2021 (Accessed December 2021) [https://pharmacy.envolvehealth.com/content/dam/centene/envolve-pharmacy-solutions/pdfs/PDL/FORMLARY-AbsoluteTotalCare\\_SouthCarolina.pdf](https://pharmacy.envolvehealth.com/content/dam/centene/envolve-pharmacy-solutions/pdfs/PDL/FORMLARY-AbsoluteTotalCare_SouthCarolina.pdf).

<sup>12</sup> 2022 Preferred Drug List, Humana Healthy Horizons in South Carolina, Updated December 2021: <https://docushare-web.apps.external.pioneer.humana.com/Marketing/docushare-app?file=4495829>.

<sup>13</sup> Preferred Drug List, Molina Healthcare of South Carolina, Updated October 2021 (Accessed December 2021) <https://www.molinahealthcare.com/providers/sc/medicaid/drug/-/media/Molina/PublicWebsite/PDF/members/sc/en-us/Medicaid/formulary>.

<sup>14</sup> Hepatitis C Prior Authorization Criteria, Select Health of South Carolina Healthy Connections, Updated July 2020 (Accessed December 2021): <https://www.selecthealthofsc.com/pdf/provider/forms/hepatitis-c-prior-authorization-criteria.pdf>; See also Physician Request Form for Hepatitis C Therapies, Select Health of South Carolina Healthy Connections, Updated July 2020 (Accessed December 2021) <https://www.selecthealthofsc.com/pdf/provider/forms/070620-physician-request-form-for-hepatitis-c-therapies.pdf>.

<sup>15</sup> Formulary, Healthy Blue, Updated December 2021 (Accessed December 2021): [https://client.formularynavigator.com/Search.aspx?siteCode=5185199172&targetScreen=3&drugBrandListBaseTC=\\*antivirals%2B-%2Bdrugs%2Bfor%2Binfections%257c%2Bhepatitis%2B-%2Bagent%2B-%2Bcombinations\\*\\*\\*%2B-%2Bdrugs%2Bfor%2Bviral%2Binfections](https://client.formularynavigator.com/Search.aspx?siteCode=5185199172&targetScreen=3&drugBrandListBaseTC=*antivirals%2B-%2Bdrugs%2Bfor%2Binfections%257c%2Bhepatitis%2B-%2Bagent%2B-%2Bcombinations***%2B-%2Bdrugs%2Bfor%2Bviral%2Binfections); See also Clinical Criteria for Mavyret and sofosbuvir/velpatasvir.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid. Hepatitis C- Antiviral Agents Prior Authorization Form, South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services.

<sup>17</sup> Ibid. South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Preferred Drug List, July 1, 2021 (Accessed December 2021).

<sup>18</sup> Ibid. Hepatitis C Prior Authorization Criteria, Select Health of South Carolina Healthy Connections, Updated July 2020 (Accessed December 2021); See also Physician Request Form for Hepatitis C Therapies, Select Health of South Carolina Healthy Connections, Updated July 2020 (Accessed December 2021).

<sup>19</sup> Ibid. Formulary, Healthy Blue, Updated December 2021 (Accessed December 2021); See also Clinical Criteria for Mavyret and sofosbuvir/velpatasvir.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid. Hepatitis C- Antiviral Agents Prior Authorization Form, South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services.

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- <sup>21</sup> Ibid. Hepatitis C Prior Authorization Criteria, Select Health of South Carolina Healthy Connections, Updated July 2020 (Accessed December 2021); See also Physician Request Form for Hepatitis C Therapies, Select Health of South Carolina Healthy Connections, Updated July 2020 (Accessed December 2021).
- <sup>22</sup> Ibid. Formulary, Healthy Blue, Updated December 2021 (Accessed December 2021); See also Clinical Criteria for Mavyret and sofosbuvir/velpatasvir.
- <sup>23</sup> Ibid. Hepatitis C- Antiviral Agents Prior Authorization Form, South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services.
- <sup>24</sup> Ibid. Hepatitis C Prior Authorization Criteria, Select Health of South Carolina Healthy Connections, Updated July 2020 (Accessed December 2021); See also Physician Request Form for Hepatitis C Therapies, Select Health of South Carolina Healthy Connections, Updated July 2020 (Accessed December 2021).
- <sup>25</sup> Ibid. Formulary, Healthy Blue, Updated December 2021 (Accessed December 2021); See also Clinical Criteria for Mavyret and sofosbuvir/velpatasvir.
- <sup>26</sup> Medicaid Directors, National Association of Medicaid Directors (Accessed December 2021): <http://medicaiddirectors.org/about/medicaid-directors/>.