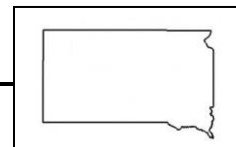


# Hepatitis C: State of Medicaid Access Report Card

## South Dakota

Estimated Number of Individuals Living with Hepatitis C: 3,700<sup>1</sup>



Grade	Summary
<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; text-align: center;">D-</p>	<p><b>Liver Damage (Fibrosis) Restrictions:</b> South Dakota requires a fibrosis score of F2 or greater.</p> <p><b>Sobriety Restrictions:</b> South Dakota requires six months of abstinence from alcohol and substance use.</p> <p><b>Prescriber Restrictions:</b> South Dakota requires a specialist to prescribe treatment or consult with the prescribing provider.</p> <p><b>Recommendations to Improve Patient Access:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove liver damage, sobriety and prescriber requirements.</li> <li>• Maintain transparency regarding hepatitis C coverage requirements.</li> </ul> <p><i>Grade Rationale: South Dakota imposes unacceptable hepatitis C coverage restrictions in all categories. With these restrictions, very few people have access to hepatitis C treatment.</i></p>

### Background

As of May 2021, South Dakota had 127,829 individuals enrolled in Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP).<sup>2</sup> The South Dakota Department of Social Services (DSS) manages the Medicaid program.<sup>3</sup> DSS operates a Fee-For-Service (FFS) program and a Primary Care Case Management system (PCCM) known as PRIME.<sup>4</sup> Most beneficiaries, 66 percent, are enrolled in PRIME; the remaining 34 percent participate in FFS.<sup>5</sup> South Dakota Medicaid establishes hepatitis C coverage criteria for the whole program and there is coverage parity across the PCCM and FFS. These criteria reflect South Dakota’s aggressive approach and management of the pharmacy benefit. The 2020 Medicaid Report states, “this management approach includes a strong clinical prior authorization process, as well as the utilization of a Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) Committee and Drug Utilization and Review (DUR) Committee comprised of pharmacists and physicians.”<sup>6</sup>

### State of Medicaid Hepatitis C Treatment Access

South Dakota severely restricts access to hepatitis C medications. Prior to 2021, South Dakota was one of only two states requiring a minimum fibrosis score of F3 and one of four states requiring a minimum fibrosis score at all.<sup>7</sup> As of December 2020, South Dakota reduced the fibrosis requirement to F2.<sup>8</sup> Additionally, beneficiaries must attest to being abstinent from alcohol and substance use for the past six months.<sup>10</sup> A prescription must be written by or in consultation with a hepatologist, gastroenterologist, or infectious disease specialist.<sup>11</sup>

### Liver Damage (Fibrosis) Restrictions

South Dakota requires a minimum fibrosis score of F2 confirmed by liver biopsy, FibroScan score of 7.1 kPa or greater, or APRI score of 1.5 or greater. Beneficiaries who document severe extrahepatic manifestations may also qualify for treatment.<sup>12</sup>

### Sobriety Restrictions

South Dakota requires attestation that the beneficiary is abstinent from alcohol and substance use for the past six months prior to initiating treatment.<sup>13</sup>

### Prescriber Restrictions

South Dakota requires a hepatologist, gastroenterologist, or infectious disease specialist to prescribe hepatitis C treatment or consult with the prescribing provider.<sup>14</sup>

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

<sup>2</sup> Medicaid and CHIP in South Dakota, By-State, Medicaid.gov (Updated July 1, 2021): <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/by-state/stateprofile.html?state=south-dakota>.

<sup>3</sup> South Dakota Medicaid Report SFY20, South Dakota Department of Social Services (Updated October 2020): [https://dss.sd.gov/docs/medicaid/reports/2020\\_Medicaid\\_Report.pdf](https://dss.sd.gov/docs/medicaid/reports/2020_Medicaid_Report.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> Ibid. South Dakota Medicaid Report SFY20, South Dakota Department of Social Services (Updated October 2020)

<sup>5</sup> Share of Medicaid Population Covered Under Different Delivery Systems, Medicaid Market Tracker, Henry J Kaiser Family Foundation (Accessed December 2021): <https://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>6</sup> Ibid. South Dakota Medicaid Report SFY20, South Dakota Department of Social Services (Updated October 2020)

<sup>7</sup> May 2021 National Progress Report, Hepatitis C: The State of Medicaid Access (Accessed December 2021): [https://stateofhepc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/HCV\\_State-of-Medicaid-Access\\_May-2021-Progress-Report.pdf](https://stateofhepc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/HCV_State-of-Medicaid-Access_May-2021-Progress-Report.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> Medicaid P&T Committee Meeting December 11, 2020, South Dakota Department of Social Services: [https://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/bcuploads/SDM\\_2020.12.pdf](https://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/bcuploads/SDM_2020.12.pdf).

<sup>9</sup> Hepatitis C Prior Authorization Request Form, South Dakota Department of Social Services (Updated October 2021): [https://prdgov-rxadmin.optum.com/rxadmin/SDM/HepatitisC\\_SDM.pdf](https://prdgov-rxadmin.optum.com/rxadmin/SDM/HepatitisC_SDM.pdf).

<sup>10</sup> Ibid. Hepatitis C Prior Authorization Request Form, South Dakota Department of Social Services (Updated October 2021)

<sup>11</sup> Ibid. Hepatitis C Prior Authorization Request Form, South Dakota Department of Social Services (Updated October 2021)

<sup>12</sup> Ibid. Hepatitis C Prior Authorization Request Form, South Dakota Department of Social Services (Updated October 2021)

<sup>13</sup> Ibid. Hepatitis C Prior Authorization Request Form, South Dakota Department of Social Services (Updated October 2021)

<sup>14</sup> Ibid. Hepatitis C Prior Authorization Request Form, South Dakota Department of Social Services (Updated October 2021)

<sup>15</sup> South Dakota, Medicaid Directors, National Association of Medicaid Directors: <http://medicaiddirectors.org/about/medicaid-directors/>; See also Staff and Program Directory, South Dakota Department of Social Services: <https://dss.sd.gov/aboutus/aboutus.aspx>.