

Hepatitis C: State of Medicaid Access Report Card

Texas

Estimated Number of Individuals Living with Hepatitis C: 202,500¹



Grade	Summary
<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">A</p>	<p>Liver Damage (Fibrosis) Restrictions: Texas does not impose any liver damages restrictions.</p> <p>Sobriety Restrictions: Texas does not impose any sobriety restrictions.</p> <p>Prescriber Restrictions: Texas does not impose any prescriber restrictions.</p> <p>Recommendations to Improve Patient Access:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain coverage parity across the FFS and MCO programs. • Consider waiving prior authorization for treatment-naïve individuals. <p><i>Grade Rationale: Texas offers broadly open access to hepatitis c medications. By waiving prior authorization, Texas could improve its grade to an A+.</i></p>

Background

As of April 2021, Texas had 4,960,375 individuals enrolled in Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program.² Texas Medicaid operates a Fee-For-Service (FFS) program and contracts with Managed Care Organizations (MCOs.). Most beneficiaries, 94 percent, are enrolled in a MCO; the remaining 6 percent participate in FFS.³ Texas Medicaid currently contracts with 17 MCOs: Aetna, Amerigroup, BlueCross BlueShield of Texas (BCBS), Cigna-HealthSpring (Cigna), Community Health First Plans (CHFP), Community Health Choice (CHC), Cook Children’s, Dell Children’s Health Plan, Driscoll, El Paso First Health (El Paso), FirstCare, Molina Healthcare of Texas (Molina), Parkland Community Health (Parkland), Scott & White, Superior HealthPlan (Superior), Texas Children’s, and UnitedHealthcare (UHC).⁴ Texas requires all MCOs to apply FFS hepatitis C coverage requirements.⁵

State of Medicaid Hepatitis C Treatment Access

In 2021, as a result of legal action taken by individuals with hepatitis C, represented by Edwards Law, Latham & Watkins LLP, and the Harvard Law School Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation, Texas significantly increased access to hepatitis C medications, removing all liver damage, sobriety and prescriber requirements.⁶ The Texas FFS PA does not request any information on sobriety or impose any prescribing requirements.⁷ The preferred drug list includes: Eplclusa, Mavyret, and Vosevi.⁸

Liver Damage (Fibrosis) Restrictions

Texas does not impose any liver damage restrictions.

Sobriety Restrictions

Texas does not impose any sobriety restrictions.

Prescriber Restrictions

Texas does not impose any prescriber restrictions.

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

Medicaid:⁹ Stephanie Stephens, Deputy Executive Commissioner, Medicaid & CHIP Services

4900 North Lamar Boulevard, Austin, TX 78751; Telephone: (512) 707-6096; Email Address: stephanie.stephens@hhsc.state.tx.us

Drug Utilization Review (DUR) Board:¹⁰ Drug Utilization Review Board (MC-2250), Texas Health and Human Services

4900 North Lamar Boulevard, Austin, TX 78751; Email Address: vdp-advisory@hhsc.state.tx.us

¹ Texas, State Profile, Hepvu: <https://hepvu.org/state/texas>.

² Medicaid and CHIP in Texas, By-State, Medicaid.gov: <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/by-state/stateprofile.html?state=texas>.

³ Share of Medicaid Population Covered Under Different Delivery Systems, Medicaid Market Tracker, Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation: <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 MCO Resources, Texas Vendor Drug Program: <https://www.txvendordrug.com/resources/managed-care/mco-resources>.

⁵ Changes to Hepatitis C Prior Authorization Criteria Begin Sept. 1, Texas Health and Human Services Commission: <https://www.txvendordrug.com/about/news/2021/changes-hepatitis-c-prior-authorization-criteria-begin-sept-1>. See also Pharmacy Clinical Prior Authorization Assistance Chart, Texas HSSC: <https://www.txvendordrug.com/sites/default/files/docs/prior-authorization/cpa-assistance-chart.pdf>.

⁶ Changes to Hepatitis C Prior Authorization Criteria Begin Sept. 1, Texas Health and Human Services Commission: <https://www.txvendordrug.com/about/news/2021/changes-hepatitis-c-prior-authorization-criteria-begin-sept-1>. See also Pharmacy Clinical Prior Authorization Assistance Chart, Texas HSSC: <https://www.txvendordrug.com/sites/default/files/docs/prior-authorization/cpa-assistance-chart.pdf>.

⁷ Changes to Hepatitis C Prior Authorization Criteria Begin Sept. 1, Texas Health and Human Services Commission: <https://www.txvendordrug.com/about/news/2021/changes-hepatitis-c-prior-authorization-criteria-begin-sept-1>. See also Pharmacy Clinical Prior Authorization Assistance Chart, Texas HSSC: <https://www.txvendordrug.com/sites/default/files/docs/prior-authorization/cpa-assistance-chart.pdf>.

⁸ Changes to Hepatitis C Prior Authorization Criteria Begin Sept. 1, Texas Health and Human Services Commission: <https://www.txvendordrug.com/about/news/2021/changes-hepatitis-c-prior-authorization-criteria-begin-sept-1>. See also Pharmacy Clinical Prior Authorization Assistance Chart, Texas HSSC: <https://www.txvendordrug.com/sites/default/files/docs/prior-authorization/cpa-assistance-chart.pdf>.

⁹ Texas State Directory, Stephanie Stephens: <https://www.txdirectory.com/online/person/?id=60119&staff=8566>.

¹⁰ DUR Board Contacts, Vendor Drug Program, Texas Health and Human Services: <https://www.txvendordrug.com/about/contact-us/dur-board-contacts>; Review this website for information on providing public and written testimony: <https://www.txvendordrug.com/resources/drug-utilization-review-board/dur-board-meetings>.