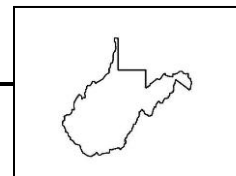


# Hepatitis C: State of Medicaid Access Report Card

## West Virginia

Estimated Number of Individuals Living with Hepatitis C: 20,600<sup>1</sup>



| Grade            | Summary  |
|------------------|--|
| <p><b>C+</b></p> | <p><b>Liver Damage (Fibrosis) Restrictions:</b> West Virginia FFS and MCOs do not impose liver damage restrictions.</p> <p><b>Sobriety Restrictions:</b> West Virginia FFS and MCOs require three months' abstinence from alcohol and substance use.</p> <p><b>Prescriber Restrictions:</b> West Virginia FFS and MCOs require a prescription to be written by or in conjunction with a specialist.</p> <p><b>Recommendations to Improve Patient Access:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remove sobriety and prescriber restrictions.</li> <li>Maintain the "carve out" of hepatitis C medications from MCO contracts and continue applying FFS coverage requirements across the Medicaid program.</li> </ul> <p><i>Grade Rationale: West Virginia provides moderate access to hepatitis C treatment without regard to liver damage. West Virginia most recently improved access to care by requiring only one viral RNA test, rather than two. However, the onerous sobriety requirement deters many individuals from accessing treatment and fails to address the public health impact of hepatitis C on the state's opioid crisis.</i></p> |

### Background

As of May 2021, West Virginia had 581,329 individuals enrolled in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).<sup>2</sup> The state operates a Fee-For-Service (FFS) program and West Virginia's Bureau of Medical Services contracts with three Managed Care Organizations (MCOs). The MCO program operates under the name "Mountain Health Trust."<sup>3</sup> Eighty percent of beneficiaries participate in Mountain Health Trust, while the remaining 20 percent are enrolled in FFS.<sup>4</sup> However, the state has excluded hepatitis C medications from MCO contracts and covers them under the FFS program for all beneficiaries.<sup>5</sup>

### State of Medicaid Hepatitis C Treatment Access

Though West Virginia has modestly improved access to hepatitis C medications, coverage criteria remain restrictive. The state has "carved out" hepatitis C medications from MCO contracts, and FFS coverage criteria now apply to all beneficiaries across the state.<sup>6</sup> Effective October 1, 2019, the state no longer imposes any minimum liver damage restrictions.<sup>7</sup> Additionally, effective September 22, 2021, the state requires one viral RNA test to be submitted with the prior authorization request, compared to two under the prior policy.<sup>8</sup> West Virginia requires three months abstinence and beneficiaries must sign a *Patient-Provider Agreement Form* acknowledging the importance of sobriety and that the patient may be required to submit a drug screen if the provider so determines.<sup>9</sup> Additionally, prescriptions must be written by or in conjunction with a gastroenterologist, hepatologist or infectious disease specialist.<sup>10</sup> The criteria notes that consultations are permitted through Project Echo. West Virginia's preferred drug list that was posted in December 2021, effective January 1, 2022, covers Mavyret and sofosbuvir/velpatasvir as preferred, and Epclusa, Harvoni, ledipasvir/sofosbuvir, Sovaldi, Viekira XR, Vosevi, and Zepatier as non-preferred.<sup>11</sup>

### Liver Damage (Fibrosis) Restrictions

West Virginia does not impose liver damage restrictions.<sup>12</sup>

### Sobriety Restrictions

West Virginia requires three months abstinence and beneficiaries must sign a *Patient-Provider Agreement Form* acknowledging the importance of sobriety and that the patient may be required to submit a drug screen if the provider so determines.<sup>13</sup>

## Prescriber Restrictions

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West Virginia requires that hepatitis C medications are prescribed by or in conjunction with a gastroenterologist, hepatologist or infectious disease specialist.<sup>14</sup> Consultations are permitted through Project Echo.

## Points of Contact for Questions & Concerns about West Virginia's State of Medicaid Hepatitis C Access

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### Medicaid:<sup>15</sup> Cindy Beane, Commissioner for the Bureau for Medical Services, West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources

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### Drug Utilization Review (DUR) Board:<sup>16</sup> Priya Shah, Drug Utilization Review Coordinator

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<sup>1</sup> HepVu, West Virginia State Profile: <https://hepvu.org/state/west-virginia/>.

<sup>2</sup> Medicaid and CHIP in West Virginia, By-State, Medicaid.gov: <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/by-state/stateprofile.html?state=west-virginia>.

<sup>3</sup> Mountain Health Trust (Managed Care), Bureau for Medical Services, West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources: <http://www.dhhr.wv.gov/bms/Members/Managed%20Care/Pages/default.aspx>.

<sup>4</sup> Share of Medicaid Population Covered under Different Delivery Systems, The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation:

<http://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>5</sup> West Virginia Medicaid Provider Newsletter, Bureau for Medical Services, WV Department of Health and Human Resources (Quarter 2 2016):

<http://www.dhhr.wv.gov/bms/BMSPUB/Documents/2Q2016%20Provider%20newsletter-rev.pdf>.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid. West Virginia Medicaid Provider Newsletter, Bureau for Medical Services, WV Department of Health and Human Resources (Quarter 2 2016).

<sup>7</sup> Office of Pharmacy Services Prior Authorization Criteria for Chronic Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) Therapy (Effective October 1, 2019):

<https://dhhr.wv.gov/bms/BMS%20Pharmacy/Documents/Drug%20PA%20Criteria/Hepatitis%20C%20Criteria%20v2019.3b.pdf>.

<sup>8</sup> Office of Pharmacy Services Prior Authorization Criteria for Chronic Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) Therapy (Effective September 22, 2021):

[https://dhhr.wv.gov/bms/BMS%20Pharmacy/Documents/Drug%20PA%20Criteria/Hepatitis%20C%20Criteria%209\\_22\\_21.docx%20%281%29.pdf](https://dhhr.wv.gov/bms/BMS%20Pharmacy/Documents/Drug%20PA%20Criteria/Hepatitis%20C%20Criteria%209_22_21.docx%20%281%29.pdf).

<sup>9</sup> Patient-Provider Agreement – Hepatitis C, State of West Virginia Bureau of Health and Human Resources Bureau for Medical Services: [https://dhhr.wv.gov/bms/BMS%20Pharmacy/Documents/Hep-C%20Prior%20Authorization%20Form%202019\\_2.pdf](https://dhhr.wv.gov/bms/BMS%20Pharmacy/Documents/Hep-C%20Prior%20Authorization%20Form%202019_2.pdf); See also Hepatitis-C Therapy Prior Authorization Form, West Virginia Medicaid: <https://dhhr.wv.gov/bms/BMS%20Pharmacy/Documents/Hep%20C%20-%20Patient-Provider%20Agreement%20v2019.3a.pdf>.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid. Office of Pharmacy Services Prior Authorization Criteria for Chronic Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) Therapy (Effective September 22, 2021).

<sup>11</sup> Preferred Drug List with Prior Authorization Criteria, Bureau for Medical Services, West Virginia Medicaid (Effective January 1, 2022):

<https://dhhr.wv.gov/bms/BMS%20Pharmacy/Documents/Preferred%20Drug%20List/2021/WV%20PDL%202022.Q1a.pdf>.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid. Office of Pharmacy Services Prior Authorization Criteria for Chronic Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) Therapy (Effective September 22, 2021).

<sup>13</sup> Ibid. Office of Pharmacy Services Prior Authorization Criteria for Chronic Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) Therapy (Effective September 22, 2021); See also Patient-Provider Agreement – Hepatitis C, State of West Virginia Bureau of Health and Human Resources Bureau for Medical Services; See also Hepatitis-C Therapy Prior Authorization Form, West Virginia Medicaid.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid. Office of Pharmacy Services Prior Authorization Criteria for Chronic Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) Therapy (Effective September 22, 2021).

<sup>15</sup> Meet the Commissioner, Bureau of Medical Service: <http://www.dhhr.wv.gov/bms/About%20Us/Commissioner/Pages/default.aspx>.

<sup>16</sup> Drug Utilization Review Board, Bureau of Medical Services: <http://www.dhhr.wv.gov/bms/BMS%20Pharmacy/DUR/Pages/DUR-Board-Meetings.aspx>.