

Hepatitis C: State of Medicaid Access Report Card

Louisiana

Estimated Number of Individuals Living with Hepatitis C: 50,000¹



| Grade | Summary |
|-------------|---|
| <h1>A+</h1> | <p>Liver Damage (Fibrosis) Restrictions: Fee-For-Service (FFS) and all Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) do not impose live damage restrictions.</p> <p>Sobriety Restrictions: FFS and all MCOs do not impose sobriety restrictions.</p> <p>Prescriber Restrictions: FFS and all MCOs do not impose prescriber restrictions.</p> <p>Recommendations to Improve Patient Access:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to provide access to hepatitis C medications for all Medicaid beneficiaries. • Maintain transparency regarding hepatitis C coverage requirements. <p><i>Grade Rationale: Louisiana's FFS and MCO programs have removed all restrictions as a result of the state's "subscription" financing model. Additionally, Louisiana has removed the need for prior authorization for the state's preferred agent and maintains coverage parity across FFS and MCO programs, further improving access to treatment. Because Louisiana allows beneficiaries to access hepatitis c treatment without submitting prior authorization, a plus has been added to the state's A grade.</i></p> |

Background

As of September 2020, Louisiana had 1,650,240 individuals enrolled in Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program.² Louisiana Medicaid, known as Healthy Louisiana, operates a Fee-For-Service (FFS) program and contracts with Managed Care Organizations (MCOs).³ Most beneficiaries, 90 percent, are enrolled in a MCO; the remaining 10 percent participate in FFS.⁴ Healthy Louisiana contracts with five MCOs to provides services to beneficiaries, including: Aetna Better Health (Aetna), AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana (AmeriHealth), Healthy Blue, Louisiana Healthcare Connections, and UnitedHealthcare Community Plan (UHC).⁵

State of Medicaid Hepatitis C Treatment Access

Louisiana Medicaid FFS and MCOs have lifted all coverage restrictions. In July 2019, Louisiana began a five-year contract with the manufacturer of generic Eplclusa to cap state expenditures under a modified "subscription" financing model.⁶ The agreement applies to treatment purchased for the state's Medicaid and incarcerated populations. On June 26, 2019, the state notified all FFS pharmacy providers and MCOs that the preferred agent, the authorized generic of Eplclusa, will be covered without the need to submit prior authorization.⁷ The state's coverage criteria was amended to reflect this change: the revised criteria states that the authorized generic does not require prior authorization, and criteria for non-preferred agents do not include any liver damage, sobriety, or prescriber restrictions.⁸ The state created a new worksheet that must be submitted if requesting a non-preferred agent which asks for the clinical rationale for not prescribing the preferred agent, and notes that the form is not necessary for prescriptions for the authorized generic.⁹

All MCOs comply with the state's coverage criteria, and direct patients and providers seeking information on hepatitis c coverage to the Louisiana Medicaid Single Preferred Drug List (PDL).¹⁰

Liver Damage (Fibrosis) Restrictions

Louisiana FFS and MCOs do not impose liver damage restrictions.

Sobriety Restrictions

Louisiana FFS and MCOs do not impose sobriety restrictions.

Prescriber Restrictions

Louisiana FFS and MCOs do not impose prescriber restrictions.

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

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¹ Louisiana, State Profile, HepVu: <https://hepvu.org/state/louisiana/>

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

³ Healthy Louisiana, Louisiana Department of Health: <http://ldh.louisiana.gov/index.cfm/subhome/48>

⁴ Share of Medicaid Population Covered Under Different Delivery Systems, Medicaid Managed Care 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>

⁵ Compare Plans, Healthy Louisiana: <https://www.myplan.healthy.la.gov/choose/compare-plans>

⁶ Louisiana Signs Up for 'Subscription' to Hep C Treatment, Joyce Frieden, MedPage Today: <https://www.medpagetoday.com/infectiousdisease/hepatitis/81557>

⁷ Hepatitis C Virus Direct Acting Antiviral (DAA) Agent Update, Louisiana Department of Health: http://ldh.la.gov/assets/HealthyLa/Pharmacy/HepatitisCVirusDirectActingAntiviralDAAAgentUpdate_2019-06-26.pdf. See also Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) Direct-Acting Antiviral (DAA) Agents, Louisiana Department of Health: <http://ldh.la.gov/index.cfm/page/3046>.

⁸ Louisiana Medicaid Hepatitis C Direct-Acting Antiviral (DAA) Agents, Louisiana Department of Health: <http://www.ldh.la.gov/assets/HealthyLa/PDL/3.2019/HepatitisCDAACriteria.061019.pdf>. See also Louisiana Medicaid Preferred Drug List (PDL)/Non-Preferred Drug List (NPDL), Louisiana Department of Health: <http://ldh.la.gov/assets/HealthyLa/Pharmacy/PDL.pdf>.

⁹ Direct-Acting Antiviral (DAA) Agents Used to Treat Chronic Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) Medication Therapy Worksheet for Louisiana Medicaid Recipients, Louisiana Department of Health: http://www.ldh.la.gov/assets/HealthyLa/PDL/3.2019/Hep_C_DAA_Treatment_Worksheet.52419.pdf.

¹⁰ See, e.g., Pharmacy, Aetna Better Health of Louisiana (noting that Aetna follows Louisiana's PDL and clinical criteria as of 5/1/19): <https://www.aetnabetterhealth.com/louisiana/providers/pharmacy>. See also Prior Authorization, AmeriHealth Caritas (directing to Louisiana Medicaid PDL with criteria): <http://www.amerihelthcaritasla.com/pharmacy/priorauth.aspx>; Pharmacy Information, Healthy Blue (directing providers to Louisiana Medicaid PDL): <https://providers.healthybluelua.com/la/pages/pharmacy-information.aspx>; Pharmacy, Louisiana Healthcare Connections (directing providers to Louisiana Medicaid PDL): <https://www.louisianahealthconnect.com/providers/pharmacy.html>; Pharmacy Resources and Physician Administered Drugs, UnitedHealthcare Community Plan (directing providers to Louisiana Medicaid PDL): <https://www.uhcprovider.com/en/health-plans-by-state/louisiana-health-plans/la-comm-plan-home/la-cp-pharmacy.html>.

¹¹ Medicaid Leadership, Louisiana Department of Health: <https://ldh.la.gov/index.cfm/page/226>

¹² Medicaid Pharmaceutical & Therapeutics Committee, Directory, Medicaid, Louisiana Department of Health: <http://dhh.louisiana.gov/index.cfm/directory/detail/697>