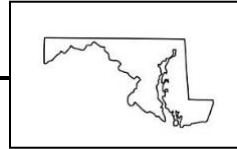


Hepatitis C: State of Medicaid Access Report Card

Maryland

Estimated Number of Individuals Living with Hepatitis C: 40,600¹



Grade	Summary
<h1>B+</h1>	<p>Liver Damage (Fibrosis) Restrictions: Fee-For-Service (FFS) and Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) do not impose any liver damage restrictions.</p> <p>Sobriety Restrictions: FFS and all MCOs require screening for active alcohol and substance use.</p> <p>Prescriber Restrictions: FFS and most MCOs require that patients have a treatment plan developed by or in collaboration with a provider with expertise in hepatitis C management, but does not require certain specialists to prescribe or consult.</p> <p>Recommendations to Improve Patient Access:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eliminate sobriety and prescribing requirements. • Ensure hepatitis C coverage transparency by all MCOs. <p><i>Grade Rationale: Maryland Medicaid FFS and MCOs provide consistent access to hepatitis C medications. FFS requires screening for active substance use and a provider with experience managing hepatitis c treatment must prescribe or consult. Most MCOs impose the same requirements and are transparent in their coverage criteria. With minimal changes the state could improve its grade to an A.</i></p>

Background

As of August 2020, Maryland had 1,389,124 individuals enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP.² Maryland’s Medicaid program, known as Medical Assistance, operates a Fee-For-Service (FFS) program and contracts with Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) known as HealthChoice.³ Most beneficiaries, 86 percent, are enrolled in HealthChoice, a statewide mandatory MCO program. The remaining 14 percent participate in FFS.⁴ HealthChoice contracts with nine health insurance plans including Aetna, Amerigroup Community Care, Jai Medical Systems, Kaiser Permanente, Maryland Physicians Care, MedStar Family Choice, Priority Partners, UnitedHealthcare Community Plan, and University of Maryland Health Partners.⁵

State of Medicaid Hepatitis C Treatment Access

Maryland FFS has moderate access to hepatitis C treatment. FFS requires prior authorization (PA) but does not require a minimum liver damage level to qualify for treatment.⁶ The PA asks if the patient has “an active diagnosis of a substance use disorder” and inquires if the beneficiary is actively engaged in treatment and, if not, then whether the prescriber has conducted an adherence assessment to assure successful treatment completion.⁷ While the FFS criteria requires that patients have a treatment plan developed either by or in collaboration with a provider with expertise in hepatitis C management, no specific specialist provider is required to prescribe or consult.⁸ Maryland FFS Preferred Drug List (PDL) includes Mavyret, Vosevi, Zepatier, and generic Harvoni and Epclusa as preferred, with Daklinza, Sovaldi, and Viekira Pak as non-preferred.⁹

Most MCOs impose the same coverage requirements as FFS. Many MCOs direct patients and providers seeking information on hepatitis C coverage requirements to the state’s FFS criteria and forms. Aetna,¹⁰ Amerigroup,¹¹ Jai,¹² Maryland Physicians Care,¹³ MedStar,¹⁴ UnitedHealthcare Community Plan,¹⁵ and University of Maryland Health Partners¹⁶ all reference or directly link to the FFS criteria and follow the same coverage requirements.

Kaiser Permanente publishes its own prior authorization form and criteria. Kaiser’s criteria follows FFS in that it does not require a minimum liver damage level and only requires documentation of any substance use disorder and referral for treatment.¹⁷ However, the criteria states that a prescription must be prescribed by or in consultation with a gastroenterologist, hepatologist, infectious disease or transplant specialist.¹⁸

Priority Health Partners also publishes its own prior authorization form with unclear requirements. The form asks about liver damage, fibrosis score, and prescriber specialty but does not indicate specific restrictions.¹⁹ The form inquires about any diagnosis of active substance use disorder and if present, if the patient is in treatment and if not whether an adherence assessment has been done.²⁰

Liver Damage (Fibrosis) Restrictions

Maryland FFS does not impose liver damage restrictions.

Aetna, Amerigroup, Kaiser Permanente, Jai, Maryland Physicians Care, MedStar, UnitedHealthcare Community Plan, and University of Maryland Health Partners also do not impose liver damage restrictions.

Priority Health Partners has unclear liver damage restrictions.

Sobriety Restrictions

Maryland FFS and all MCOs require screening to determine if the patient has an active diagnosis of a substance use disorder. If present, FFS and MCOs ask if the beneficiary is actively engaged in treatment and, if not, then whether the prescriber has conducted an adherence assessment to assure successful treatment completion.

Prescriber Restrictions

Maryland FFS requires that a patient has a treatment plan developed either by or in collaboration with a provider with expertise in hepatitis C management; however no specific specialist provider is required to prescribe or consult.

Aetna, Amerigroup Community Care, Jai Medical Systems, Maryland Physicians Care, MedStar Family Choice, UnitedHealthcare Community Plan, and University of Maryland Health Partners, also require a treatment plan developed either by or in collaboration with a provider with expertise in hepatitis C management.

Kaiser Permanente requires a prescription by or in consultation with a gastroenterologist, hepatologist, infectious disease or transplant specialist.

Priority Health Partners do not appear to impose prescriber restrictions.

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

Medicaid²¹: Tricia Roddy, Acting Medicaid Director, Maryland Department of Health

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Drug Utilization Review (DUR)²²: Maryland Pharmacy Program Office

201 West Preston St., Baltimore, MD, 21201; Telephone: 1(800)492-5231, option # 3

¹ Maryland, State Profile, HepVu: <https://hepvu.org/state/maryland/>

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

³ HealthChoice, Maryland Department of Health: <https://mmcp.health.maryland.gov/healthchoice/pages/Home.aspx>

⁴ Share of Medicaid Population Covered under Different Delivery Systems, Medicaid Managed Care Tracker, The 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%22collId%22:%22Location%22,%22sort%22:%22asc%22%7D>

⁵ MCO Comparison Chart, Maryland Department of Health:

[https://mmcp.health.maryland.gov/epsdt/EPSTDT%20Resources/MCO%20Comparison%20Chart%20eff%20July%201,%202019%20Both%20Eng%20and%20Spanish%20\(1\).pdf](https://mmcp.health.maryland.gov/epsdt/EPSTDT%20Resources/MCO%20Comparison%20Chart%20eff%20July%201,%202019%20Both%20Eng%20and%20Spanish%20(1).pdf)

⁶ Clinical Criteria for Hepatitis C (HCV) Therapy, Maryland Department of Health: <https://mmcp.health.maryland.gov/pap/docs/HCV%20Clinical%20Criteria%20final%201%207%2021.pdf>. See also Hepatitis C Therapy Prior Authorization Form, Maryland Department of Health: <https://mmcp.health.maryland.gov/pap/docs/Hepatitis%20C%20PA%20form%20Oct%201%202018%20Final.pdf>; Hepatitis C Therapy, Maryland Department of Health: <https://mmcp.health.maryland.gov/pap/Pages/Hepatitis-C.Therapy.aspx>

⁷ Clinical Criteria for Hepatitis C (HCV) Therapy, Maryland Department of Health:

<https://mmcp.health.maryland.gov/pap/docs/HCV%20Clinical%20Criteria%20final%201%207%2021.pdf>

⁸ See also Hepatitis C Therapy Prior Authorization Form, Maryland Department of Health: <https://mmcp.health.maryland.gov/pap/docs/Hepatitis%20C%20PA%20form%20Oct%201%202018%20Final.pdf>

⁹ Clinical Criteria for Hepatitis C (HCV) Therapy, Maryland Department of Health:

<https://mmcp.health.maryland.gov/pap/docs/HCV%20Clinical%20Criteria%20final%201%207%2021.pdf>

¹⁰ See also Hepatitis C Therapy Prior Authorization Form, Maryland Department of Health: <https://mmcp.health.maryland.gov/pap/docs/Hepatitis%20C%20PA%20form%20Oct%201%202018%20Final.pdf>

¹¹ Preferred Drug List, Maryland Department of Health: https://mmcp.health.maryland.gov/pap/docs/Maryland_PDL_7.1.20.pdf

¹² Pharmacy Prior Authorization Guidelines, Aetna Better Health of Maryland: <https://www.aetnabetterhealth.com/maryland/providers/pharmacy/prior-auth>

¹³ Pharmacy information and tools, Amerigroup <https://provider.amerigroup.com/maryland-provider/member-eligibility-and-pharmacy/pharmacy> (note that this links to the FFS criteria page). See also Hepatitis C Treatment Prior Authorization (PA) Amerigroup: https://provider.amerigroup.com/docs/gpp/MDMD_HepCProviderPAForm.pdf?v=202008172118

¹⁴ Pharmacy Prescription Prior Authorization, Jai Medical Systems: <https://www.jaimedicalsystems.com/providers/pharmacy/>

¹⁵ Prior Authorization Request Forms, Maryland Physicians Care: <https://www.marylandphysicianscare.com/providers/approved-drug-benefits/prior-auth-request.html>

¹⁶ Hepatitis C Medications, MedStar Family Choice: <https://www.medstarfamilychoice.com/maryland-healthchoice/for-maryland-healthchoice-physicians/pharmacy/hepatitis-c-medications/>

¹⁷ Hepatitis C Therapy Prior Authorization Form, Maryland Department of Health/UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of Maryland: <https://www.uhcprovider.com/content/dam/provider/docs/public/prior-auth/uhc-cp-pharmacy-forms/h-l/MD-Hepatitis-C-Medications-Prior-Authorization-Form.pdf>

¹⁸ Pharmacy Authorizations and Medication Exceptions, University of Maryland Health Partners: <https://www.umhealthpartners.com/find-a-drug-or-pharmacy/pharmacy-authorizations/>

¹⁹ Hepatitis C Treatment Therapy Prior Authorization (PA), Kaiser Permanente:

[https://www.providers.kaiserpermanente.org/info_assets/cpp_mas/Maryland_Health_Choice_Prior_Authorization_\(PA\)_for_Hepatitis_C_Agents.pdf](https://www.providers.kaiserpermanente.org/info_assets/cpp_mas/Maryland_Health_Choice_Prior_Authorization_(PA)_for_Hepatitis_C_Agents.pdf). See also Kaiser Permanente Maryland Medicaid Prior Authorization Criteria: [https://providers.kaiserpermanente.org/info_assets/cpp_mas/Maryland_Health_Choice_Prior_Authorization_\(PA\)_Criteria.pdf](https://providers.kaiserpermanente.org/info_assets/cpp_mas/Maryland_Health_Choice_Prior_Authorization_(PA)_Criteria.pdf)

²⁰ Hepatitis C Treatment Therapy Prior Authorization (PA), Kaiser Permanente: [https://www.providers.kaiserpermanente.org/info_assets/cpp_mas/Maryland_Health_Choice_Prior_Authorization_\(PA\)_for_Hepatitis_C_Agents.pdf](https://www.providers.kaiserpermanente.org/info_assets/cpp_mas/Maryland_Health_Choice_Prior_Authorization_(PA)_for_Hepatitis_C_Agents.pdf). See also Kaiser Permanente Maryland Medicaid Prior Authorization Criteria: [https://providers.kaiserpermanente.org/info_assets/cpp_mas/Maryland_Health_Choice_Prior_Authorization_\(PA\)_Criteria.pdf](https://providers.kaiserpermanente.org/info_assets/cpp_mas/Maryland_Health_Choice_Prior_Authorization_(PA)_Criteria.pdf)

²¹ Hepatitis C Therapy Prior Authorization Form, John Hopkins Healthcare/Priority Partners: https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/johns_hopkins_healthcare/downloads/ppmco/ppmco_hepatitis_c_prior_authorization.pdf

²² Hepatitis C Therapy Prior Authorization Form, John Hopkins Healthcare/Priority Partners: https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/johns_hopkins_healthcare/downloads/ppmco/ppmco_hepatitis_c_prior_authorization.pdf

²³ Maryland, Medicaid Directors, National Association of Medicaid Directors: <http://medicaiddirectors.org/about/medicaid-directors/>

²⁴ Contact information for Maryland Medicaid Pharmacy Program, Contact Us, Maryland Department of Health: <https://mmcp.health.maryland.gov/pap/Pages/CONTACT.aspx>