

Hepatitis C: State of Medicaid Access Report Card

Massachusetts

Estimated Number of Individuals Living with Hepatitis C: 74,100¹



Grade	Summary
<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; text-align: center;">A</p>	<p>Liver Damage (Fibrosis) Restrictions: Fee-For-Service (FFS) and all Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) do not have any liver damage restrictions.</p> <p>Sobriety Restrictions: FFS and MCOs do not have any sobriety restrictions.</p> <p>Prescriber Restrictions: FFS and MCOs do not have any prescriber restrictions.</p> <p>Recommendations to Improve Patient Access:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain open access and transparency regarding hepatitis C coverage requirements. <p><i>Grade Rationale: Massachusetts has dramatically increased access to hepatitis C medications in response to strong advocacy. All Medicaid beneficiaries have access to treatment and there is parity across FFS and MCOs. The state serves as a model for other Medicaid programs.</i></p>

Background

As of June 2017, Massachusetts had 1,638,116 individuals enrolled in Medicaid, known as MassHealth.² Over half of MassHealth enrollees, 53 percent, are enrolled in a Managed Care Organization (MCO). Six MCOs serve MassHealth: Boston Medical Center HealthNet Plan, Neighborhood Health Plan, Health New England, Fallon Community Health Plan, Tufts Health Plan and CeltiCare Health.³ The remaining enrollees participate in either the Fee-For-Service (FFS) program (20 percent), or the Primary Care Case Management (PCCM) system (27 percent).⁴ In 2006, Massachusetts reformed its health care system to provide near universal health insurance coverage for its residents.⁵ The state has achieved 98 percent coverage which is the best in the nation.⁶

State of Medicaid Hepatitis C Treatment Access

MassHealth has dramatically increased access to hepatitis C medications. While MassHealth members participating in the FFS program had open access, those receiving care from MCOs faced onerous restrictions.⁷ Previously, MCOs required severe liver damage (F3 or greater) and 12 months abstinence from alcohol and illicit substance use.⁸ MCOs also required a specialist to prescribe.⁹

After significant patient and health care provider advocacy, MassHealth announced it would expand hepatitis C treatment access. Effective August 1, 2016, MassHealth MCOs were directed to remove all restrictions related to liver damage, sobriety and prescriber specialty.¹⁰ All beneficiaries now have unrestricted access to hepatitis C medications.¹¹ FFS and MCOs require a diagnosis of chronic hepatitis C and do not impose any liver damage, sobriety or prescribing requirements.¹² Beneficiaries must be at least 18 years old to qualify for treatment.¹³ FFS and MCO impose quantity and duration limits (from 12 to 24 weeks), which vary depending on the prescribed regimen.¹⁴ Additionally, FFS/PCCM and MCOs require documentation of HCV RNA lab results at weeks four and six of treatment to receive approval for treatment continuation.¹⁵

MassHealth FFS/PCCM's Preferred Drug List (PDL) includes the following Direct-Acting Antivirals (DAAs): preferred (Epclusa, Harvoni, Sovaldi,) and non-preferred (Daklinza, Olysio, Technivie, Viekira XR, Viekira Pak, Zepatier).¹⁶ MCO formularies are established by each plan and most require hepatitis C regimens to be filled at specialty pharmacies. Boston Medical Health Net Plan covers the following DAAs: preferred (Daklinza, Harvoni, Sovaldi) and non-preferred (Olysio, Viekira XR, Viekira Pak, Technivie, Epclusa, Zepatier).¹⁷ Boston Medical Health Net Plan requires specialty medications, including hepatitis C regimens, to be dispensed at one of two contracted specialty pharmacies: Diplomat or Walgreens Specialty.¹⁸ Neighborhood Health Plan's formulary includes the following preferred DAAs: Daklinza, Epclusa, Harvoni and Sovaldi.¹⁹ Health New England has separate prior authorization (PA) forms and clinical guidelines for each hepatitis C regimen; however, the coverage requirements conform to FFS criteria.²⁰ Health New England's formulary includes the following DAAs: preferred (Epclusa, Harvoni, Sovaldi) and non-preferred (Daklinza, Olysio, Technivie, Viekira XR, Viekira Pak, Zepatier). These medications must be dispensed at a specialty pharmacy.²¹ Fallon Community Health Plan also requires hepatitis C prescriptions to be filled through CVS Caremark Specialty Pharmacy mail-order and prescriptions are limited to a 30 day supply.²² It appears Fallon Community Health Plan establishes all DAA regimens as preferred (Daklinza, Epclusa, Harvoni, Sovaldi, Technivie, Viekira XR, Viekira Pak, Zepatier).²³ CeltiCare Health includes the following DAAs on its formulary: Daklinza, Epclusa, Harvoni, Sovaldi and Zepatier.²⁴ Tufts Health Plan's formulary includes the following regimens: Daklinza, Harvoni and Sovaldi.²⁵ Tufts Health Plan also requires hepatitis C medications be filled by CVS Specialty Pharmacy and limits prescriptions to a 30 day supply.²⁶

MassHealth is transparent regarding its hepatitis C coverage requirements. The state responded to the NVHR/CHLPI survey requesting information on hepatitis C coverage criteria.

Liver Damage (Fibrosis) Restrictions

MassHealth FFS/PCCM and MCOs require a diagnosis of chronic hepatitis C and do not have liver damage requirements.²⁷ The FFS/PCCM and MCOs PA forms state “staging information must clearly demonstrate early stage (F0 to F2) or advanced liver disease (F3 to F4).”²⁸ The PA forms request other clinical information such as HIV and/or hepatitis B co-infection, post-liver transplant and liver cancer.²⁹

Sobriety Restrictions

MassHealth FFS/PCCM does not impose any sobriety requirements.³⁰ However, the PA form requests if the beneficiary has a substance use disorder as well as if a beneficiary with current substance use is presently enrolled in a substance use or alcohol support program.³¹ The MCOs do not impose any sobriety requirements.³²

Prescriber Restrictions

MassHealth FFS/PCCM and MCOs do not specify any prescribing requirements on their PA forms.³³ Tufts Health Plan’s PA form requests if the prescriber is a gastroenterologist, hepatologist or infectious disease specialist.³⁴ However, Tufts Health Plan’s publicly available criteria state that the specialist prescribing requirement was removed in July 2016.³⁵

Points of Contact for Questions & Concerns about Massachusetts’ State of Medicaid Hepatitis C Access

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¹ HepVu, Massachusetts State Profile: <https://hepvu.org/state/massachusetts/>

² Medicaid and CHIP in Massachusetts, By-State, Medicaid.gov (Accessed June 2017): <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/by-state/stateprofile.html?state=massachusetts>

³ MCO Plan Selection Period and Fixed Enrollment Period Changes FAQs for Providers, Executive Office of Health and Human Services (Accessed June 2017):

<http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/provider/insurance/masshealth/mco-plan-selection-and-fixed-enrollment-period-faqs.html>

⁴ Share of Medicaid Population Covered under Different Delivery Systems, The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation.

<http://www.kff.org/medicaid/state-indicator/share-of-medicare-population-covered-under-different-delivery-systems/?currentTimeframe=0&sortModel=%7B%22colld%22%22Location%22%22sort%22%22asc%22%7D> (Accessed June 2017)

⁵ Massachusetts Health Reform: Six Years Later, The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, May 1, 2012 (Accessed June 2017): <http://www.kff.org/health-costs/issue-brief/massachusetts-health-care-reform-six-years-later/>

⁶ The Top Ten Facts About Massachusetts Health Care Reform, Commonwealth Health Insurance Connector Authority and the Executive Office of Health and Human Services

(Accessed June 2017): <http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/docs/eohhs/healthcare-reform/top-10-facts.pdf>

⁷ MassHealth Expands Access to Hepatitis C Therapies Like Harvoni, Hepatitis News Today, July 5, 2016 (Accessed June 2017): <https://hepatitisnewstoday.com/2016/07/05/masshealth-expands-hepatitis-c-drug-therapy-rebate-program/>

⁸ Hepatitis C Therapy, Fallon Community Health Plan Prior Authorization Request, CVS-CAREMARK, 2016,

https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&ved=0ahUKEwjtGtY8jNahWCat4KHTiXBIgQFgqeMAA&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.fchp.org%2Fproviders%2Fpharmacy%2F%2Fmedia%2FFiles%2FProviderPDFs%2FPAworkSheets%2FSpecialty%2FHepatitisC_spec.ashx&usq=AFQjCNEQC7MEXLKULQZFFT2ce2RbB65EUQ&sig2=lzh-6CqgeSDWrEkztz-Atw (Accessed June 2017) Note: the other MCOs previous/outdated prior authorization hepatitis C requirements have been removed from the internet and are no longer available as of June 2017.

⁹ Ibid. Hepatitis C Therapy, Fallon Community Health Plan Prior Authorization Request

¹⁰ Daniel Tsai, MassHealth Managed Care Organization Bulletin 6, July 2016 (Accessed June 2017): <http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/docs/masshealth/bull-2016/mco-6.pdf>

¹¹ Daniel Tsai, MassHealth Managed Care Organization Bulletin 6, July 2016

¹² Hepatitis Antiviral Agents, Prior Authorization Request, MassHealth, Revised: 03/2017 (Accessed June 2017):

<https://masshealthdruglist.ehs.state.ma.us/MHDL/pubdownloadpapdf.do?id=14;> See also: BMCHP 9.123 Hepatitis C, Prior Authorization Request Form, Boston Medical Center Health Net Plan, Effective: 08/01/2016,

(Accessed June 2017): <https://www.bmchp.org/~media/c76f0b267e854ef584565b84d0ffd362.pdf>; See also: Hepatitis C Medications Prior Authorization Criteria, Neighborhood Health Plan, Updated: 08/04/2016

(Accessed June 2017): https://www.nhp.org/provider/medicalpolicies/Hepatitis_C_Medications.pdf; See also: Medication Prior Authorization Request, Massachusetts Standard Form for Hepatitis C, CultiCare Health Plan (Ambetter) Version: September 2016 (Accessed June 2017): <https://ambetter.culticarehealthplan.com/content/dam/centene/CultiCare%20HealthPlan/Ambetter/PDFs/FINAL-Hep-C-PA-Form-9-2016.pdf>; See also: Hepatitis C Medication Request Form, Tufts Health Plan, Updated 10/2016 (Accessed June 2017): <https://tuftshealthplan.com/documents/providers/forms/hepatitis-c-medication-request-form>. See also: Online Drug Formulary, Fallon Community Health Plan (Accessed June 2017): [https://client.formularynavigator.com/Search.aspx?siteCode=8164346221&targetScreen=3&drugBrandListBaseTC=antivirals%257canti-hepatitis%2Bc%2B\(hcv\)%2Bagents](https://client.formularynavigator.com/Search.aspx?siteCode=8164346221&targetScreen=3&drugBrandListBaseTC=antivirals%257canti-hepatitis%2Bc%2B(hcv)%2Bagents); See also: Formulary Lookup, Health New England (Accessed June 2017): <http://www.hnedirect.com/FormularyLookup/Default.aspx>

¹³ Prior Authorization Requirements, Hepatitis Antiviral Agents, Massachusetts Department of Health and Human Services, Revised: May 2017, (Accessed June 2017):

<https://masshealthdruglist.ehs.state.ma.us/MHDL/pubtheradetail.do?id=44;> See also: Prior Authorization Request, Hepatitis Antiviral Agents, MassHealth Drug Utilization Review Program, MassHealth, Revised: March 2017 (Accessed June 2017): <https://masshealthdruglist.ehs.state.ma.us/MHDL/pubdownloadpa.do?id=2706;> See also: BMCHP 9.123 Hepatitis C, Prior Authorization Request Form, Boston Medical Center Health Net Plan;

See also: Hepatitis C Medications Prior Authorization Criteria, Neighborhood Health Plan; See also: Medication Prior Authorization Request, Massachusetts Standard Form for Hepatitis C, CultiCare Health Plan (Ambetter);

See also: Hepatitis C Medication Request Form, Tufts Health Plan; See also: Online Drug Formulary, Fallon Community Health Plan; See also: Formulary Lookup, Health New England

¹⁴ Ibid. Prior Authorization Requirements, Hepatitis Antiviral Agents, Massachusetts Department of Health and Human Services; See also: Prior Authorization Request, Hepatitis Antiviral Agents, MassHealth Drug Utilization Review Program; See also: BMCHP 9.123 Hepatitis C, Prior Authorization Request Form, Boston Medical Center Health Net Plan; See also: Hepatitis C Medications Prior Authorization Criteria, Neighborhood Health Plan; See also: Medication Prior Authorization Request, Massachusetts Standard Form for Hepatitis C, CultiCare Health Plan (Ambetter); See also: Hepatitis C Medication Request Form, Tufts Health Plan; See also: Online Drug Formulary, Fallon Community Health Plan; See also: Formulary Lookup, Health New England

¹⁵ Ibid. Prior Authorization Requirements, Hepatitis Antiviral Agents, Massachusetts Department of Health and Human Services; See also: Prior Authorization Request, Hepatitis Antiviral Agents, MassHealth Drug Utilization Review Program

¹⁶ Preferred Drug List, Massachusetts Department of Health and Human Services (Accessed June 2017): [https://masshealthdruglist.ehs.state.ma.us/MHDL/pubdruglist.do?category=MassHealth+Drug+List+A+-+Z](https://masshealthdruglist.ehs.state.ma.us/MHDL/pubdruglist.do?category=MassHealth+Drug+List+A+-+Z;); See also: Prior Authorization Requirements, Hepatitis Antiviral Agents, Massachusetts Department of Health and Human Services

¹⁷ Hepatitis C, Pharmacy Policy, Boston Medical Center HealthNet Plan (BMCHP), Effective: 09/15/2016 (Accessed June 2017): <https://www.bmchp.org/~media/4b7026a5beff4156bfedc051f486e81b.pdf>; See also PA Forms and Clinical Guidelines, BMCHP (Accessed June 2017): <https://www.bmchp.org/pharmacy/providers/prior-authorization-forms/masshealth-commcare#H>

¹⁸ Specialty Medication List, Boston Medical Center HealthNet Plan (Accessed June 2017): <https://www.bmchp.org/~media/3f98675d68a94eda8f5bbb509f9a68d.pdf>

¹⁹ Formulary Navigator, Neighborhood Health Plan, MassHealth (Accessed June 2017): https://fm.formularynavigator.com/MemberPages/pdf/MassHealth_11411_Brand%20Reference%20Drug_3301.pdf

²⁰ Formulary Lookup, Health New England (Accessed June 2017): <http://www.hnedirect.com/FormularyLookup/Default.aspx>; See also: Eplclusa, Medication Request Form (MRF), Health New England 2016 (Accessed June 2017): <http://www.hnedirect.com/FormularyLookup/MedRequest.aspx?Doc=Eplclusa/PS610POL-Eplclusa HNE MRF.pdf> Note: each regimen’s PA form and clinical guidelines are listed by regimen or search by therapeutic class: Hepatitis Agents (<http://www.hnedirect.com/FormularyLookup/Default.aspx>)

- ²¹ Ibid. Formulary Lookup, Health New England (Accessed June 2017)
- ²² Online Drug Formulary, Fallon Community Health Plan (Accessed June 2017): [https://client.formularynavigator.com/Search.aspx?siteCode=8164346221&targetScreen=3&drugBrandListBaseTC=antivirals%257canti-hepatitis%2Bc%2B\(hcv\)%2Bagents](https://client.formularynavigator.com/Search.aspx?siteCode=8164346221&targetScreen=3&drugBrandListBaseTC=antivirals%257canti-hepatitis%2Bc%2B(hcv)%2Bagents)
- ²³ Ibid. Online Drug Formulary, Fallon Community Health Plan
- ²⁴ CeltiCare Health Preferred Drug List, Updated: April 28, 2017 (Accessed June 2017): https://pharmacy.envolvehealth.com/content/dam/centene/envolve-pharmacy-solutions/pdfs/PDL/FORMULARY-CELTICARE_OF_MASSAGHUSSETTS.pdf
- ²⁵ Specialty Pharmacy Program and Included Medications, Tufts Health Together, Tufts Health Plan, December 15, 2016 (Accessed June 2017): <https://tuftshealthplan.com/documents/members/pharmacy/tufts-health-together-specialty-pharmacy>
- ²⁶ Ibid. Specialty Pharmacy Program and Included Medications, Tufts Health Together, Tufts Health Plan
- ²⁷ Daniela Semedo, MassHealth Expands Access to Hepatitis C Therapy Like Harvoni, Hepatitis New Today, July 5, 2016 (Accessed June 2017): <https://hepatitisnewtoday.com/2016/07/05/masshealth-expands-hepatitis-c-drug-therapy-rebate-program>; Note: Executive Office of Health and Human Services New Release: *MassHealth Implements New Drug Rebate Program, Expands Access to Hep C treatment: Announcement Comes After Months of Negotiations* is no longer available
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- ²⁹ Ibid. Prior Authorization Requirements, Hepatitis Antiviral Agents, Massachusetts Department of Health and Human Services; See also: Prior Authorization Request, Hepatitis Antiviral Agents, MassHealth Drug Utilization Review Program; See also: BMCHP 9.123 Hepatitis C, Prior Authorization Request Form, Boston Medical Center Health Net Plan; See also: Hepatitis C Medications Prior Authorization Criteria, Neighborhood Health Plan; See also: Medication Prior Authorization Request, Massachusetts Standard Form for Hepatitis C, CeltiCare Health Plan (Ambetter); See also: Hepatitis C Medication Request Form, Tufts Health Plan; See also: Online Drug Formulary, Fallon Community Health Plan; See also: Formulary Lookup, Health New England
- ³⁰ Ibid. Hepatitis Antiviral Agents, Prior Authorization Request, MassHealth, Revised: 03/2017
- ³¹ Ibid. Hepatitis Antiviral Agents, Prior Authorization Request, MassHealth, Revised: 03/2017
- ³² Ibid. BMCHP 9.123 Hepatitis C, Prior Authorization Request Form, Boston Medical Center Health Net Plan; See also: Hepatitis C Medications Prior Authorization Criteria, Neighborhood Health Plan; See also: Medication Prior Authorization Request, Massachusetts Standard Form for Hepatitis C, CeltiCare Health Plan (Ambetter); See also: Hepatitis C Medication Request Form, Tufts Health Plan; See also: Online Drug Formulary, Fallon Community Health Plan; See also: Formulary Lookup, Health New England
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- ³⁵ Pharmacy Medical Necessity Guidelines, Tufts Health Plan (Accessed June 2017): [https://tuftshealthplan.com/documents/providers/guidelines/pharmacy-medical-necessity-guidelines/thpp-harvoni-\(ledipasvir-sofosbuvir\)](https://tuftshealthplan.com/documents/providers/guidelines/pharmacy-medical-necessity-guidelines/thpp-harvoni-(ledipasvir-sofosbuvir))
- ³⁶ Medicaid Directors, National Association of Medicaid Directors (Accessed June 2017): <http://medicaiddirectors.org/about/medicaid-directors/>
- ³⁷ MassHealth Drug Utilization Review, Department of Health and Human Services (Accessed June 2017): <http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/provider/insurance/masshealth/pharmacy/drug-utilization-review/>