

Hepatitis C: State of Medicaid Access Report Card

Montana

Estimated Number of Individuals Living with Hepatitis C: 7,400¹



Grade	Summary
A-	<p>Liver Damage (Fibrosis) Restrictions: Montana does not impose liver damage restrictions.</p> <p>Sobriety Restrictions: Montana requires screening and counseling for drug and alcohol use.</p> <p>Prescriber Restrictions: Montana does not impose prescriber restrictions.</p> <p>Recommendations to Improve Patient Access:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove drug and alcohol use screening requirement. Maintain transparency regarding hepatitis C coverage criteria. <p><i>Grade Rationale: Montana greatly improved access to hepatitis c treatment. The largest barrier remaining is the requirement to screen patients for drug and alcohol use, which may deter some patients from seeking treatment.</i></p>

Background

Montana’s Medicaid program is called Passport to Health.² As of October 2019, there were 253,794 individuals enrolled in Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP).³ Montana operates a Primary Care Case Management (PCCM) program in which beneficiaries either choose or are assigned to a primary care provider to manage their care.⁴ The state does not contract with Managed Care Organizations (MCOs). 87 percent of beneficiaries are enrolled in the PCCM; the remaining 13 percent participate in the Fee-For-Service (FFS) program.⁵ Montana Medicaid establishes uniform hepatitis C coverage criteria for all beneficiaries regardless if an individual is enrolled in the PCCM or FFS program.

State of Medicaid Hepatitis C Treatment Access

Montana Medicaid removed most of their restrictions to hepatitis c medications effective February 3, 2020.⁶ Montana expanded hepatitis c treatment to cover individuals with all stages of liver damage, and eliminated the previous provider specialty requirement. Montana additionally eliminated the previous six-month sobriety requirement, but still requires prescribers to assess individuals “psychosocial readiness” including alcohol and substance use.⁷ Montana Medicaid includes the following Direct-Acting Antivirals (DAAs) on their preferred drug list: preferred (Mavyret) non-preferred (Epclusa, Harvoni, Olysio, Sovaldi and Zepatier).⁸

Liver Damage (Fibrosis) Restrictions

Montana Medicaid does not impose liver damage restrictions.⁹

Sobriety Restrictions

Montana Medicaid requires providers to perform a “psychosocial readiness evaluation” that includes alcohol and substance use, but does not impose any mandated period of sobriety prior to approving hepatitis c treatment.¹⁰

Prescriber Restrictions

Montana Medicaid does not impose prescriber restrictions and allows primary care physicians to prescribe hepatitis c treatment.¹¹

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

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- ¹ HepVu, Montana State Profile: <https://hepvu.org/state/montana/>
- ² Montana Medicaid and Health Montana Kids (HMK) Plus, DPHHS: <http://dphhs.mt.gov/MontanaHealthcarePrograms/MemberServices>.
- ³ Medicaid & CHIP in Montana, By-State, Medicaid.gov: <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/by-state/stateprofile.html?state=montana> (Accessed May 2017)
- ⁴ Ibid. Montana Medicaid and Health Montana Kids (HMK) Plus, DPHHS
- ⁵ Share of Medicaid Populations Covered Under Different Delivery Systems, State Health Facts, 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%22colld%22:%22Location%22,%22sort%22:%22asc%22%7D>
- ⁶ Changes to Hepatitis C Treatment Criteria, Montana Healthcare Programs Notice, Montana DPHHS, January 3, 2020: <https://medicaidprovider.mt.gov/Portals/68/docs/providernotices/2020PN/provnoticchangehepatitistreatmentcriteria01032020.pdf>.
- ⁷ Montana Healthcare Programs Prior Authorization Request for Hepatitis C Treatment, Mountain-Pacific/DPHHS: <https://medicaidprovider.mt.gov/Portals/68/docs/forms/HepCPAForm01102020.pdf>.
- ⁸ Montana Medicaid Preferred Drug List (Updated 03/23/2017): <http://medicaidprovider.mt.gov/Portals/68/docs/pharmacy/2017/MTPDL03232017.pdf>
- ⁹ Changes to Hepatitis C Treatment Criteria, Montana Healthcare Programs Notice, Montana DPHHS, January 3, 2020: <https://medicaidprovider.mt.gov/Portals/68/docs/providernotices/2020PN/provnoticchangehepatitistreatmentcriteria01032020.pdf>. See also Montana Healthcare Programs Prior Authorization Request for Hepatitis C Treatment, Mountain-Pacific/DPHHS: <https://medicaidprovider.mt.gov/Portals/68/docs/forms/HepCPAForm01102020.pdf>.
- ¹⁰ Changes to Hepatitis C Treatment Criteria, Montana Healthcare Programs Notice, Montana DPHHS, January 3, 2020: <https://medicaidprovider.mt.gov/Portals/68/docs/providernotices/2020PN/provnoticchangehepatitistreatmentcriteria01032020.pdf>. See also Montana Healthcare Programs Prior Authorization Request for Hepatitis C Treatment, Mountain-Pacific/DPHHS: <https://medicaidprovider.mt.gov/Portals/68/docs/forms/HepCPAForm01102020.pdf>.
- ¹¹ Changes to Hepatitis C Treatment Criteria, Montana Healthcare Programs Notice, Montana DPHHS, January 3, 2020: <https://medicaidprovider.mt.gov/Portals/68/docs/providernotices/2020PN/provnoticchangehepatitistreatmentcriteria01032020.pdf>. See also Montana Healthcare Programs Prior Authorization Request for Hepatitis C Treatment, Mountain-Pacific/DPHHS: <https://medicaidprovider.mt.gov/Portals/68/docs/forms/HepCPAForm01102020.pdf>.
- ¹² Public Health and Human Services, DPHHS, Agency and Telephone Listing, Montana State Government Directories: <http://mt.gov/govt/statedir/agency/dphhs.mcp>
- ¹³ Ibid. Public Health and Human Services, DPHHS, Agency and Telephone Listing, Montana State Government Directories, See also Montana Medicaid Drug Use Review (DUR) Board: <https://dphhs.mt.gov/boardscouncils/medicaiddur.aspx> or <https://medicaidprovider.mt.gov/19dur>