

Hepatitis C: State of Medicaid Access Report Card

New Hampshire



Estimated Number of Individuals Living with Hepatitis C: 11,000¹

Grade	Summary
<p>B+</p>	<p>Liver Damage (Fibrosis) Restrictions: New Hampshire does not have liver damage restrictions.</p> <p>Sobriety Restrictions: New Hampshire requires the prescriber to screen and counsel beneficiaries and administer ongoing testing throughout treatment to ensure abstinence.</p> <p>Prescriber Restrictions: New Hampshire requires a prescription by or in consultation with a specialist or by a prescriber who has completed continuing medical education on the treatment of hepatitis C.</p> <p>Recommendations to Improve Patient Access:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove sobriety and prescriber restrictions. Maintain parity across Fee-For-Service (FFS) and Managed Care Organizations(MCOs) and transparency regarding hepatitis C coverage criteria. <p><i>Grade Rationale: While New Hampshire has no liver damage restrictions, it requires screening and counseling for substance use and a prescription written by or in consultation with a specialist. With minimal changes, the state could have open access. In recognition of parity across FFS and MCOs and allowing a prescriber who has completed continuing medical education on hepatitis C treatment, a “plus” has been added to the state’s “B” grade.</i></p>

Background

As of March 2017, New Hampshire had 186,941 individuals enrolled in Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP).² In June 2011, New Hampshire passed a law requiring mandatory enrollment in risk-based managed care for all Medicaid beneficiaries. Over 95 percent of all enrollees now participate in a Managed Care Organization (MCO) plan.³ The state currently contracts with one national, for-profit plan, New Hampshire Healthy Families (owned by Centene), and one local, not-for-profit plan, Well Sense Health Plan (owned by Boston Medical Center Health Net Plan).⁴ However, effective July 1, 2016, New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) carved hepatitis C medications and medications for other diseases out of the MCO contracts.⁵ These medications are now paid for by Magellan, the New Hampshire Fee-For-Service (FFS) program’s pharmacy vendor. Prior authorization (PA) requests are also processed by Magellan.⁶ FFS program determines hepatitis C coverage criteria for all Medicaid beneficiaries.

State of Medicaid Hepatitis C Treatment Access

In 2016, New Hampshire began increasing access to hepatitis C medications. All beneficiaries are subject to the FFS hepatitis C coverage criteria as of July 1, 2016. Previously, the state required severe liver damage (F3 or greater), six months of sobriety and a specialist to prescribe.⁷ New Hampshire no longer imposes liver damage restrictions and now requires diagnosis of chronic hepatitis C to qualify for treatment.⁸ The prescriber must also document if the beneficiary is co-infected with HIV or has cirrhosis.⁹

The prescriber must initially confirm the patient is not actively using illicit substances or alcohol during treatment by using a designated validated screening tool.¹⁰ If the patient has a history of substance or alcohol use within the past six months, the prescriber must confirm the beneficiary has completed or is participating in a recovery program or receiving substance or alcohol use disorder counseling services, or seeing an addiction specialist as part of HCV treatment.¹¹ To renew PA, the prescriber must provide documentation that the beneficiary is not actively using illicit substances or alcohol during therapy by administering a designated alcohol consumption test both randomly and periodically throughout treatment.¹²

A prescription must be written by or in consultation with a gastroenterologist, hepatologist, infectious disease specialist or a prescriber who has completed continuing medical education on the treatment of hepatitis C.¹³ Authorization for hepatitis C treatment is limited to one course of therapy per lifetime.¹⁴ Non-preferred drugs on the Preferred Drug List (PDL) require additional prior approval.¹⁵ The following regimens are included on the PDL: preferred (Epclusa, Harvoni, Viekira Pak) and non-preferred (Daklinza, Olysio, Sovaldi, Technivie, Zepatier).¹⁶

New Hampshire is transparent with its hepatitis C coverage criteria. The state responded to the NVHR/CHLPI survey on hepatitis C coverage requirements.

Liver Damage (Fibrosis) Restrictions

New Hampshire requires a diagnosis of chronic hepatitis C.¹⁷ The state does not impose any liver damage requirements.

Sobriety Restrictions

New Hampshire requires the prescriber to screen and counsel beneficiaries and administer ongoing testing throughout treatment to ensure abstinence. The prescriber must initially confirm the patient is not actively using illicit substances or alcohol during treatment by using one of the following designated screening tools: Alcohol Use Disorder Identification Test, CAGE¹⁸ alcohol screen or the National Institute on Drug Abuse drug screening tool.¹⁹ If the patient has a history of substance or alcohol use, within the past six months, the prescriber must confirm the beneficiary has completed or is participating in a recovery program or receiving substance or alcohol use disorder counseling services or seeing an addiction specialist as part of hepatitis C treatment.²⁰

To renew PA, the prescriber must document the patient is not actively using substances or alcohol during treatment by administering one of the following designated alcohol consumption tests: Serum gamma, glutamyl transpeptidase (GGT); Mean corpuscular volume (MCV); Carbohydrate-deficient transferrin (CDT); Urine ethylglucuronide (EtG)) randomly and periodically throughout treatment.²¹ The testing results must be documented in the patient's medical record including the results of testing/date tested and be submitted along with the request to renew PA. The prescriber may submit clinical rationale for continuing treatment if a positive test result occurs.²² The state specifies that urine toxicology screen results are acceptable in lieu of the actual laboratory drug screen report and testing must be done by a federal and state certified laboratory for ongoing lab monitoring.²³

Prescriber Restrictions

New Hampshire requires a prescription by or in consultation with a gastroenterologist, hepatologist, infectious disease specialist or by a prescriber who has completed continuing medical education on the treatment of hepatitis C.²⁴

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

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¹ HepVu, New Hampshire State Profile: <https://hepvu.org/state/new-hampshire/>

² Medicaid.gov, Medicaid & CHIP in New Hampshire: <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/by-state/stateprofile.html?state=new-hampshire>

³ 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%22colld%22:%22Location%22,%22sort%22:%22asc%22%7D>

⁴ New Hampshire, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Pharmacy Benefit Management (Accessed May 2017): <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/ombp/pharmacy/index.htm>

⁵ New Hampshire Medicaid Pharmacy Program, Pharmacy Carve Out Memo, From NH Department of Health and Human Services, July 10, 2016: <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/ombp/pharmacy/documents/pharmacy-notice-7-10-16.pdf>

⁶ Ibid. New Hampshire Medicaid Pharmacy Program, Pharmacy Carve Out Memo

⁷ Removed from the website: N.H. DHHS, Medicaid Fee-for-Service Program Prior Authorization Drug Approval Form: Hepatitis C Medications (December 2015)

⁸ New Hampshire Medicaid Program, Hepatitis C Criteria (Updated October 2016): <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/ombp/pharmacy/documents/hepatitisccriteria.pdf> See also, New Hampshire Medicaid Fee-For-Service

Program Prior Authorization, Drug Approval Form, Hepatitis C Medications, Magellan Rx (Updated: 01/01/2017): <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/ombp/pharmacy/documents/hepatitisc.pdf>

⁹ Ibid. New Hampshire Medicaid Program, Hepatitis C Criteria (Updated October 2016)

¹⁰ Ibid. New Hampshire Medicaid Program, Hepatitis C Criteria (Updated October 2016)

¹¹ Ibid. New Hampshire Medicaid Program, Hepatitis C Criteria (Updated October 2016)

¹² Ibid. New Hampshire Medicaid Program, Hepatitis C Criteria (Updated October 2016)

¹³ New Hampshire Medicaid Fee-For-Service Program Prior Authorization, Drug Approval Form, Hepatitis C Medications, Magellan Rx (Updated: 01/01/2017):

<https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/ombp/pharmacy/documents/hepatitisc.pdf>

¹⁴ Ibid. New Hampshire Medicaid Program, Hepatitis C Criteria (Updated October 2016)

¹⁵ Ibid. New Hampshire Medicaid Program, Hepatitis C Criteria (Updated October 2016)

¹⁶ NH Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Fee-For-Service Medicaid, Preferred Drug List (PDL), Office of Medicaid Business and Policy (Updated: January 2017):

<https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/ombp/pharmacy/documents/preferred.pdf>

¹⁷ Ibid. New Hampshire Medicaid Program, Hepatitis C Criteria (Updated October 2016)

¹⁸ CAGE Questionnaire is an acronym of its four questions. It is a quick screening tool to identify individuals at risk for alcoholism: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CAGE_questionnaire

¹⁹ Ibid. New Hampshire Medicaid Program, Hepatitis C Criteria (Updated October 2016)

²⁰ Ibid. New Hampshire Medicaid Program, Hepatitis C Criteria (Updated October 2016)

²¹ Ibid. New Hampshire Medicaid Program, Hepatitis C Criteria (Updated October 2016)

²² Ibid. New Hampshire Medicaid Program, Hepatitis C Criteria (Updated October 2016)

²³ Ibid. New Hampshire Medicaid Program, Hepatitis C Criteria (Updated October 2016)

²⁴ Ibid. New Hampshire Medicaid Fee-For-Service Program Prior Authorization, Drug Approval Form, Hepatitis C Medications, Magellan Rx (Updated: 01/01/2017)