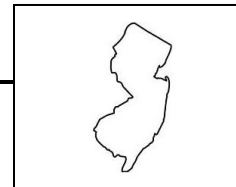


Hepatitis C: State of Medicaid Access Report Card

New Jersey

Estimated Number of Individuals Living with Hepatitis C: 90,700¹



Grade	Summary
<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; color: #8B4513;">A-</p>	<p>Liver Damage (Fibrosis) Restrictions: Fee-For-Service (FFS) and all Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) do not impose liver damage requirements.</p> <p>Sobriety Restrictions: FFS and all MCOs do not impose sobriety requirements.</p> <p>Prescriber Restrictions: FFS and four MCOs, Aetna, Horizon, UHC, and Wellcare, require a specialist to prescribe. One MCO, Amerigroup, does not impose prescriber restrictions.</p> <p>Recommendations to Improve Patient Access:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eliminate prescriber restrictions. <p><i>Grade Rationale: New Jersey has taken steps to improve access to hepatitis C treatment by eliminating liver damage criteria and sobriety requirements. The state has also mandated that MCOs apply the same coverage criteria as the FFS program, and all MCOs are compliant. By removing the requirement that only specialists prescribe treatment, New Jersey could improve its A minus grade.</i></p>

Background

As of May 2017, New Jersey had 1,776,298 individuals enrolled in Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP).² New Jersey Medicaid operates a Fee-For-Service (FFS) program and contracts with Managed Care Organizations (MCOs).³ Most beneficiaries, over 94 percent, are enrolled in one of 5 MCO plans. The remaining 6 percent participate in FFS.⁴ New Jersey contracts with Aetna Better Health of New Jersey (Aetna), Amerigroup RealSolutions (Amerigroup), Horizon NJ Health (Horizon), UnitedHealthcare Community Plan (UHC) and WellCare.⁵

State of Medicaid Hepatitis C Treatment Access

New Jersey has taken significant steps to improve access to hepatitis C medications. The state has been pressed by patient advocates and the Legal Services of New Jersey (LSNJ) to open access.⁶ Following this pressure, New Jersey updated their treatment policy in July of 2018 to remove their disease severity requirement. As of July 1, 2018, all FFS patients can qualify for treatment regardless of disease severity.⁷ Consistent with the previous version, the current policy does not impose sobriety restrictions.⁸ New Jersey requires that a hepatologist, gastroenterologist, infectious disease or liver transplant specialist prescribe treatment.⁹ The new treatment policy explicitly applies to both the FFS and MCO programs, and all MCOs have since updated their criteria to conform to the expanded policy.¹⁰

Liver Damage (Fibrosis) Restrictions

New Jersey FFS does not impose liver damage restrictions.¹¹

Aetna, Amerigroup, Horizon Health, UHC, and Wellcare follow the FFS policy and do not impose liver damage restrictions.¹²

Sobriety Restrictions

New Jersey FFS does not impose sobriety restrictions.¹³

Aetna, Amerigroup, Horizon, UHC, and Wellcare follow the FFS policy and do not impose sobriety restrictions.¹⁴

Prescriber Restrictions

New Jersey FFS requires that a hepatologist, gastroenterologist, infectious disease or liver transplant specialist prescribe treatment.¹⁵

Aetna, Horizon, UHC, and Wellcare follow the FFS policy and require a prescription to be written by a hepatologist, gastroenterologist, infectious disease or liver transplant specialist.¹⁶

Amerigroup does not appear to impose prescriber restrictions.¹⁷

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

Medicaid¹⁸: Meghan Davey, Director, Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services, Department of Human Services, State of New Jersey

7 Quakerbridge Plaza, PO Box 712, Trenton, NJ 08625-0712; Telephone: (609) 588-2600; Email Address: meghan.davey@doh.state.nj.us

Drug Utilization Review Board (DURB)¹⁹: DURB Secretary, New Jersey DURB, Office of the Medical Director, Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services, Department of Human Services, State of New Jersey

PO Box 712, Trenton, NJ 08625; Telephone: (609) 588-2739

¹ New Jersey State Profile, HepVu (Accessed August 2017): <https://hepvu.org/state/new-jersey/>

² Medicaid and CHIP in New Jersey, By-State, Medicaid.gov (Accessed August 2017): <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/by-state/stateprofile.html?state=new-jersey>

³ Share of Medicaid Population Covered Under Different Delivery Systems, Medicaid Managed Care Market Tracker, Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, July 1, 2016 (Accessed August 2017): <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>

⁴ Ibid. Share of Medicaid Population Covered Under Different Delivery Systems, Medicaid Managed Care Market Tracker, Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, July 1, 2016

⁵ New Jersey Medicaid & Managed Care, Division of Medical Assistance & Health Services, New Jersey Department of Human Services (Accessed August 2017): <http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmahs/info/resources/care/>

⁶ June 22, 2016 DURB Meeting Summary (Accessed August 2017): http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmahs/boards/durb/meeting/durb_06_22_16.pdf; See also: Drug Utilization Review Board (DURB), Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services, Department of Human Services (Accessed August 2017): <http://www.nj.gov/humanservices/dmahs/boards/durb/>

⁷ NJ FamilyCare Coverage of Hepatitis C Treatment, Newsletter Volume 28 No. 11. State of New Jersey Department of Human Services Division of Medical Assistance & Health Services, July 2018. Available at: <https://www.njmms.com/documentDownload.aspx?fileType=076B9D7D-96DC-4C8A-B9CE-BA46F47DDE1F>. (select "choose volume and number" and enter volume 28, number 11.)

⁸ Ibid. NJ FamilyCare Coverage of Hepatitis C Treatment, Newsletter Volume 28 No. 11.

⁹ Ibid. NJ FamilyCare Coverage of Hepatitis C Treatment, Newsletter Volume 28 No. 11.

¹⁰ Ibid. NJ FamilyCare Coverage of Hepatitis C Treatment, Newsletter Volume 28 No. 11.

¹¹ Ibid. NJ FamilyCare Coverage of Hepatitis C Treatment, Newsletter Volume 28 No. 11.

¹² Protocol for Direct Acting Antiviral Hepatitis C Drugs (Adults), Aetna Better Health of New Jersey, July 1, 2018:

https://www.aetnabetterhealth.com/newjersey/assets/pdf/pharmacy/New_Jersey_Hepatitis_C_DAA%20drugs%20for%20hep%20C_7.1.18.pdf. Mavyret clinical criteria, Amerigroup Real Solutions:

<https://fm.formularynavigator.com/FormularyNavigator/DocumentManager/Download?clientDocumentId=YqPqQLkSUKGyEbcq025Wuw>. (Other DAAs have similar or identical clinical criteria. To locate these, search Amerigroup's Medicaid Formulary for a specific DAA and click on "clinical criteria" here: <https://client.formularynavigator.com/Search.aspx?siteCode=1501420370>).

Medical Policy Manual: Hepatitis C Treatment, Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey: <https://services3.horizon-bcbnsj.com/ddn/NJhealthWeb.nsf>. Hepatitis C Medications - New Jersey Prior Authorization Request Form, UnitedHealthcare Community Plans:

<https://www.uhcprovider.com/content/dam/provider/docs/public/prior-auth/uhccp-pharmacy-forms/h-1/NJ-Hepatitis-C-Prior-Authorization-Form.pdf> (Note that neither fibrosis, sobriety, nor prescriber information is requested). Prior Authorization Criteria, Wellcare New Jersey: <https://fm.formularynavigator.com/FormularyNavigator/DocumentManager/Download?clientDocumentId=PpatPQo2mkCWhxzHar2TGO>.

¹³ Ibid. NJ FamilyCare Coverage of Hepatitis C Treatment, Newsletter Volume 28 No. 11.

¹⁴ Protocol for Direct Acting Antiviral Hepatitis C Drugs (Adults), Aetna Better Health of New Jersey, July 1, 2018:

https://www.aetnabetterhealth.com/newjersey/assets/pdf/pharmacy/New_Jersey_Hepatitis_C_DAA%20drugs%20for%20hep%20C_7.1.18.pdf. Mavyret clinical criteria, Amerigroup Real Solutions:

<https://fm.formularynavigator.com/FormularyNavigator/DocumentManager/Download?clientDocumentId=YqPqQLkSUKGyEbcq025Wuw>. (Other DAAs have similar or identical clinical criteria. To locate these, search Amerigroup's Medicaid Formulary for a specific DAA and click on "clinical criteria" here: <https://client.formularynavigator.com/Search.aspx?siteCode=1501420370>).

Medical Policy Manual: Hepatitis C Treatment, Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey: <https://services3.horizon-bcbnsj.com/ddn/NJhealthWeb.nsf>. Hepatitis C Medications - New Jersey Prior Authorization Request Form, UnitedHealthcare Community Plans:

<https://www.uhcprovider.com/content/dam/provider/docs/public/prior-auth/uhccp-pharmacy-forms/h-1/NJ-Hepatitis-C-Prior-Authorization-Form.pdf> (Note that neither fibrosis, sobriety, nor prescriber information is requested). Prior Authorization Criteria, Wellcare New Jersey: <https://fm.formularynavigator.com/FormularyNavigator/DocumentManager/Download?clientDocumentId=PpatPQo2mkCWhxzHar2TGO>.

¹⁵ Ibid. NJ FamilyCare Coverage of Hepatitis C Treatment, Newsletter Volume 28 No. 11.

¹⁶ Ibid. NJ FamilyCare Coverage of Hepatitis C Treatment, Newsletter Volume 28 No. 11.

¹⁷ Protocol for Direct Acting Antiviral Hepatitis C Drugs (Adults), Aetna Better Health of New Jersey, July 1, 2018:

https://www.aetnabetterhealth.com/newjersey/assets/pdf/pharmacy/New_Jersey_Hepatitis_C_DAA%20drugs%20for%20hep%20C_7.1.18.pdf. Medical Policy Manual: Hepatitis C Treatment, Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey: <https://services3.horizon-bcbnsj.com/ddn/NJhealthWeb.nsf>. Hepatitis C Medications - New Jersey Prior Authorization Request Form, UnitedHealthcare Community Plans:

<https://www.uhcprovider.com/content/dam/provider/docs/public/prior-auth/uhccp-pharmacy-forms/h-1/NJ-Hepatitis-C-Prior-Authorization-Form.pdf> (Note that neither fibrosis, sobriety, nor prescriber information is requested). Prior Authorization Criteria, Wellcare New Jersey: <https://fm.formularynavigator.com/FormularyNavigator/DocumentManager/Download?clientDocumentId=PpatPQo2mkCWhxzHar2TGO>.

¹⁸ New Jersey, Medicaid Directors, National Association of Medicaid Directors (Accessed August 2017): <http://medicaiddirectors.org/about/medicaid-directors/>; See also: Meet the Director, Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services (Accessed August 2017): <http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmahs/staff/director/>

¹⁹ Drug Utilization Review Board (DURB), Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services, Department of Human Services (Accessed August 2017): <http://www.nj.gov/humanservices/dmahs/boards/durb/>