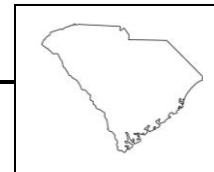


# Hepatitis C: State of Medicaid Access Report Card

## South Carolina

Estimated Number of Individuals Living with Hepatitis C: 62,300<sup>1</sup>



Grade	Summary
<p><b>B+</b></p>	<p><b>Liver Damage (Fibrosis) Restrictions:</b> Fee-For-Service (FFS) and Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) do not have any liver damage requirements</p> <p><b>Sobriety Restrictions:</b> FFS and MCOs require screening and counseling for alcohol and substance use.</p> <p><b>Prescriber Restrictions:</b> FFS and MCOs require a prescription to be written by or in consultation with a specialist.</p> <p><b>Recommendations to Improve Patient Access:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eliminate sobriety and prescriber restrictions.</li> <li>• Maintain parity across FFS and MCOs and transparency regarding hepatitis C coverage criteria.</li> </ul> <p><i>Grade Rationale: South Carolina Medicaid has significantly increased access to hepatitis C medications this year. The state has no liver damage requirements, but requires screening and counseling for alcohol and substance use and a prescription by or in consultation with a specialist. In recognition that the state has “carved-out” hepatitis C treatment from MCO contracts, creating coverage parity across FFS and MCO programs, a “plus” has been added to the state’s B grade.</i></p>

### Overview

As of June 2017, South Carolina had 1,008,200 individuals enrolled in Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program.<sup>2</sup> South Carolina Medicaid, known as Healthy Connections, contracts with Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) and operates a Fee-For-Service (FFS) program. Most beneficiaries, over 72 percent, are enrolled the MCO program.<sup>3</sup> The remaining 27 percent participate in FFS. On July 1, 2015, the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services “carved out” hepatitis C medications from MCO contracts.<sup>4</sup> Hepatitis C prior authorization (PA) requirements, preferred drug classification, coverage rules and claims are determined by the FFS program for all Medicaid enrollees.<sup>5</sup>

### State of Medicaid Hepatitis C Treatment Access

South Carolina has made significant strides in reducing restrictions to hepatitis C medication. The state also excluded hepatitis C medications from MCO contracts resulting in coverage parity across the program. Previously, South Carolina required severe liver damage (F3 or greater) to access treatment.<sup>6</sup> Additionally, the PA previously inquired if the patient was abstinent from alcohol and substance use for six months prior to submitting a request for treatment.<sup>7</sup> The PA also requested if the prescriber was a gastroenterologist, hepatologist, infectious disease specialist or “other”.<sup>8</sup>

However, official communication from the South Carolina Medicaid program indicates that the state has reduced restrictions and now requires a diagnosis of chronic hepatitis C, no liver damage requirements, screening and counseling for substance and alcohol use and a prescription to be written by or in consultation with a specialist.<sup>9</sup> The prescriber must provide a baseline hepatitis C virus (HCV) RNA baseline and HCV RNA at four and 12 weeks of treatment as well as documentation if the beneficiary is HIV positive including current regimens.<sup>10</sup> The PA does not specify quantity or duration limits nor an age requirement.<sup>11</sup> The Preferred Drug List (PDL) includes the following Direct-Acting Antiviral (DAAs) preferred regimens: Genotype 1 (Harvoni, Viekira XR, Zepatier), Genotype 2 and 3 (Epclusa), Genotype 4 (Harvoni, Technivie, Zepatier), Genotype 5 and 6 (Harvoni).<sup>12</sup> The PDL does not list any non-preferred DAA regimens.<sup>13</sup>

South Carolina Medicaid is transparent regarding its hepatitis C coverage criteria. The state responded to the NVHR/CHLPI survey on hepatitis C coverage requirements.

### Liver Damage (Fibrosis) Restrictions

South Carolina Medicaid does not have liver damage requirements.<sup>14</sup> The PDL states “effective January 1, 2017, SC coverage includes F0-F4.”<sup>15</sup>

## Sobriety Restrictions

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South Carolina Medicaid requires counseling for substance and alcohol use.<sup>16</sup>

## Prescriber Restrictions

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South Carolina Medicaid requires a prescription to be written by or in consultation with a specialist.<sup>17</sup>

## Points of Contact for Questions & Concerns about South Carolina's State of Medicaid Hepatitis C Access

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### Medicaid<sup>18</sup>: Deirdra Singleton, Acting Director, Health Connections, Department of Health & Human Services, State of South Carolina

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<sup>1</sup> HepVu, South Carolina State Profile: <https://hepvu.org/state/south-carolina/>

<sup>2</sup> Medicaid and CHIP in South Carolina, By-State, [Medicaid.gov](https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/by-state/stateprofile.html?state=south-carolina) (Accessed June 2017): <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/by-state/stateprofile.html?state=south-carolina>

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

<http://www.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>

<sup>4</sup> Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) Pharmacy Benefit Carve Out, South Carolina Health Connections Medicaid Bulletin, May. 21, 2015 (Accessed June 2017):

<https://www.scdhhs.gov/sites/default/files/Hepatitis%20C%20Virus%20%28HCV%29%20MCO%20Carveout.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> Ibid. Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) Pharmacy Benefit Carve Out, South Carolina Health Connections Medicaid Bulletin

<sup>6</sup> Hepatitis C- Antiviral Agents Prior Authorization Form, South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (2016) (Accessed June 2017):

[http://southcarolina.fhsc.com/Downloads/provider/SCRx\\_PAform\\_Hepatitis\\_C.pdf](http://southcarolina.fhsc.com/Downloads/provider/SCRx_PAform_Hepatitis_C.pdf); See also: Forms, South Carolina Pharmacy Services, South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (Accessed June 2017):

<http://southcarolina.fhsc.com/providers/rxdocuments.asp>

<sup>7</sup> Ibid. Hepatitis C- Antiviral Agents Prior Authorization Form, South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

<sup>8</sup> Ibid. Hepatitis C- Antiviral Agents Prior Authorization Form, South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

<sup>9</sup> Response to NVHR/CHPLI State of Hepatitis C Medicaid Access Survey, Brian Amick, Pharmacy Director, March 3, 2017; Note: Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee 9/28/2016 Meeting Notes indicate treatment expansion:

[http://southcarolina.fhsc.com/Downloads/provider/PTMinutes\\_20160928.pdf](http://southcarolina.fhsc.com/Downloads/provider/PTMinutes_20160928.pdf)

<sup>10</sup> Ibid. Hepatitis C- Antiviral Agents Prior Authorization Form, South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

<sup>11</sup> Ibid. Hepatitis C- Antiviral Agents Prior Authorization Form, South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

<sup>12</sup> South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Preferred Drug List, July 1, 2017 (Accessed June 2017): [http://southcarolina.fhsc.com/Downloads/provider/SCpdl\\_listing\\_20170701.pdf](http://southcarolina.fhsc.com/Downloads/provider/SCpdl_listing_20170701.pdf); See Also Preferred

Drug List, South Carolina Pharmacy Services, South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (Accessed June 2017): <http://southcarolina.fhsc.com/providers/pdl.asp>

<sup>13</sup> Ibid. South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Preferred Drug List, July 1, 2017

<sup>14</sup> Response to NVHR/CHPLI State of Hepatitis C Medicaid Access Survey, Brian Amick, Pharmacy Director, March 3, 2017; Note: Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee 9/28/2016 Meeting Notes indicate treatment

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<sup>15</sup> Ibid. South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Preferred Drug List, July 1, 2017

<sup>16</sup> Response to NVHR/CHPLI State of Hepatitis C Medicaid Access Survey, Brian Amick, Pharmacy Director, March 3, 2017; Note: Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee 9/28/2016 Meeting Notes indicate treatment

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<sup>17</sup> Response to NVHR/CHPLI State of Hepatitis C Medicaid Access Survey, Brian Amick, Pharmacy Director, March 3, 2017; Note: Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee 9/28/2016 Meeting Notes indicate treatment

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<sup>18</sup> Medicaid Directors, National Association of Medicaid Directors (Accessed June 2017): <http://medicaiddirectors.org/about/medicaid-directors/>