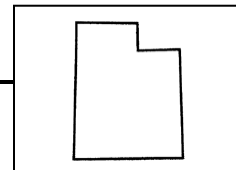


Hepatitis C: State of Medicaid Access Report Card

Utah



Estimated Number of Individuals Living with Hepatitis C: 12,300¹

Grade	Summary
C	<p>Liver Damage (Fibrosis) Restrictions: Fee-For-Service (FFS) and two MCOs (Healthy U and Molina) do not have fibrosis criteria. One Managed Care Organization (MCO), SelectHealth Community Care, requires at least moderate liver damage (F2 or greater). One MCO (Health Choice Utah) requires severe liver damage (F3 or greater).</p> <p>Sobriety Restrictions: FFS does not have any sobriety restrictions. One MCO (SelectHealth Community Care) requires six months' abstinence from alcohol or drug use before submitting a prior authorization request form. Three MCOs (Health Choice Utah, Healthy U, and Molina Healthcare of Utah) require screening and some form of counseling for drug or alcohol use.</p> <p>Prescriber Restrictions: FFS only requires a prescription be written by or in consultation with a specialist for patients that are not treatment-naïve and/or in specific circumstances which are outlined on the prior authorization form. One MCO (Molina Healthcare of Utah) does not require a specialist to prescribe treatment. The other three MCOs (Healthy U, SelectHealth Community Care, and Health Choice Utah) require prescriptions to be written by specialists.</p> <p>Recommendations to Improve Patient Access:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Require MCOs to impose FFS hepatitis C coverage criteria to achieve parity and improve access across the entire program. • Ensure transparency regarding hepatitis C coverage requirements. <p><i>Grade Rationale: FFS and MCO hepatitis C coverage requirements differ significantly. FFS imposes minimal restrictions whereas most MCO plans require moderate to severe liver damage, sobriety, and a prescription by or in consultation with a specialist. Most beneficiaries are enrolled in a MCO plan and have restricted access to hepatitis C treatment.</i></p>

Background

As of September 2020, Utah had 365,322 individuals enrolled in Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).² Utah Medicaid operates a Fee-For-Service (FFS) program and contracts with Managed Care Organizations (MCOs). Most beneficiaries, over 75 percent, are enrolled in an MCO. The remaining beneficiaries participate in FFS.³ Utah utilizes four MCOs: Steward Health Choice Utah (Health Choice), Health Plans University of Utah (Healthy U), Molina Healthcare (Molina) and SelectHealth Community Care (SelectHealth).⁴

State of Medicaid Hepatitis C Treatment Access

Utah FFS has moderate access to hepatitis C medications. FFS requires prior authorization (PA), but imposes no fibrosis or sobriety restrictions.⁵ Depending on specific patient characteristics, a prescription may be required to be written by or in consultation with a specialist.⁶ FFS Preferred Drug List (PDL) includes Mavyret and Epclusa. Non-preferred drugs include: Harvoni, sofosbuvir/ledipasvir, sofosbuvir/ velpatasvir, Sovaldi, , Viekira Pak, Zepatier, and Vosevi.⁷ All prescriptions for non-preferred drugs must be prescribed by or in consultation with a specialist.⁸

Most MCOs impose stricter requirements than FFS. Since a majority of beneficiaries are enrolled in an MCO plan, most Medicaid patients have limited access to hepatitis C treatment.

Health Choice requires PA and patients to be 18 years old (or 12+ for Harvoni).⁹ A beneficiary must have severe liver damage (F3 or greater) or present certain clinical manifestations to access treatment.¹⁰ A beneficiary must provide evidence of 3 months of remission from substance use and be engaged in substance use treatment before prior authorization and over the course of treatment if the member has/had a substance use disorder in the past 12 months.¹¹ Health Choice requires a prescription by or in consultation with a hepatologist, or gastroenterologist (with hepatitis C patient management experience) or an infectious disease specialist.¹² Beneficiaries must participate in a treatment adherence program and have received hepatitis A and B vaccinations or provide laboratory evidence of immunity.¹³ Treatment will not be covered for "beneficiaries whose comorbidities have resulted in life expectancy being less than one year."¹⁴ Health Choice designated Mavyret as the preferred treatment regimen (Harvoni for patients between 12 and 18).¹⁵

Molina Healthcare requires PA, but does not list any fibrosis or specialist restrictions.¹⁶ Beneficiaries must also demonstrate treatment adherence; prescribers must agree that patients do not show signs of high risk behavior including substance use.¹⁷ Molina's PA offers Mavyret, Sofosbuvir/ Velpatasir, Ledipasvir/ sofosbuvir, Zepatier, and Sovaldi as potential requested therapies.¹⁸

SelectHealth requires PA to access treatment. A beneficiary must have at least moderate liver damage (F2 or greater) and a prescription must be written by a specialist.¹⁹ SelectHealth's PA form requires that patients have exhibited at least 6 months of abstinence from drugs of use.²⁰ SelectHealth includes Ledipasvir/ Sofosbuvir, Mavyret, Sofosbuvir/ Velpatasir and Vosevi on the PA form.²¹

Healthy U does not have fibrosis criteria.²² Healthy U requires that prescriptions be written by a specialist.²³ If a patient is actively abusing alcohol or drugs, they must be counseled regarding risks and offered a referral for substance use treatment.²⁴

Liver Damage (Fibrosis) Restrictions

Utah FFS and 2 MCOs (Molina and Healthy U) do not have fibrosis restrictions.²⁵

Health Choice requires severe liver damage (F3 or greater).²⁶ Health Choice also allows beneficiaries with the following clinical manifestations to qualify for treatment: post liver transplantation, Stage I-III Hepatocellular Carcinoma diagnosis; Type 2 or Type 3 essential mixed cryoglobulinemia with end organ manifestation; hepatitis C induced renal disease (e.g. nephrotic syndrome, membranoproliferative glomerulonephritis); leukocytoclastic vasculitis.²⁷

SelectHealth requires at least moderate liver damage (F2 or greater).²⁸

Sobriety Restrictions

Utah FFS does not impose sobriety requirements.²⁹

Health Choice requires patient to be in remission for the past 3 months from substance use before prior authorization.³⁰ Patients must be engaged in a substance use treatment program at the time of prior authorization and during treatment if the patient had substance use disorder in the past 12 months.³¹

Molina requires prescribers to agree that patients show no signs of high-risk behavior including alcoholism or substance use.³²

SelectHealth requires the patient abstain from drugs of use for at least 6 months as demonstrated by at least two urine drug screens during the 6 months before treatment.³³

Healthy U's PA requires that members who actively use alcohol or intravenous drugs, or have a history of use, be offered a referral for counseling for a substance use disorder.³⁴

Prescriber Restrictions

Utah FFS requires that the prescriber is, or has consulted with, a hepatologist, gastroenterologist or infectious disease physician depending on specific patient characteristics.³⁵

Three MCOs (Health Choice, SelectHealth, and Healthy U) requires a prescription by or in consultation with a specialist.³⁶

Molina does not appear to require a prescription written by a specialist.³⁷

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

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Email Address: medicaidpharmacy@utah.gov

¹ Utah State Profile, HepVu (Accessed January 2021): <https://hepvu.org/state/utah/>

² Medicaid and CHIP in Utah, By-State, Medicaid.gov (Accessed January 2021): <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/by-state/stateprofile.html?state=utah>

³ Share of Medicaid Population Covered under Different Delivery Systems, Medicaid Managed Care Tracker, July 1, 2019 (Accessed January 2021): <http://www.kff.org/medicaid/state-indicator/share-of-medicaid-population-covered-under-different-delivery-systems/?currentTimeframe=0&sortModel=-%7B%22collId%22:%22Location%22,%22sort%22:%22asc%22%7D>

⁴ Utah Department of Health, Managed Care: Accountable Care Organizations (Accessed August 2017): <https://medicaid.utah.gov/managed-care>

⁵ Utah Department of Health, Prior Authorization Request Form: Hepatitis C Direct Acting Anti-Viral Treatment, Updated 03/09/2020: <https://medicaid.utah.gov/pharmacy/priorauthorization/pdf/Hepatitis%20C.pdf>

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⁷ Utah Medicaid Preferred Drug List, Effective: February 2021 (Accessed February 2021): [https://medicaid.utah.gov/pharmacy/PDL/files/Utah%20Medicaid%20PDL%20\(02-01-21\).pdf](https://medicaid.utah.gov/pharmacy/PDL/files/Utah%20Medicaid%20PDL%20(02-01-21).pdf)

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