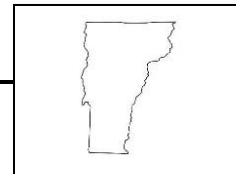


Hepatitis C: State of Medicaid Access Report Card

Vermont

Estimated Number of Individuals Living with Hepatitis C: 7,200¹



Grade	Summary
<h1 style="font-size: 2em; color: #8B0000;">A-</h1>	<p>Liver Damage (Fibrosis) Restrictions: Vermont does not impose any liver damage restrictions.</p> <p>Sobriety Restrictions: Vermont does not have any sobriety restrictions.</p> <p>Prescriber Restrictions: Vermont requires a prescription by or in consultation with a specialist.</p> <p>Recommendations to Improve Patient Access:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove prescriber restrictions. • Maintain transparency regarding hepatitis C coverage criteria. <p><i>Grade Rationale: In December 2017, Vermont increased access to hepatitis C medications by removing liver damage criteria. Vermont does not impose sobriety requirements, but a prescription must be written by or in consultation with a specialist. The A- grade reflects the improvement in coverage, while recognizing that some prescribing restrictions still thwart access.</i></p>

Background

As of June 2017, Vermont had 168,729 individuals enrolled in Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP).² Vermont’s Medicaid, known as Green Mountain Care, is run by the Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA). Implemented on October 1, 2005, the Global Commitment, a waiver from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), converted the DVHA to a public Managed Care Entity (MCE).³ The Agency of Human Services pays the MCE a lump sum premium payment for the provision of all Medicaid services in the state.⁴ All Medicaid beneficiaries are managed by one entity that establishes the coverage criteria, formulary, and prior authorization (PA) requirements for the whole program.⁵

State of Medicaid Hepatitis C Treatment Access

In December 2017, Vermont improved access to hepatitis C medications by removing liver damage criteria.⁶ Patient with no liver damage (F0 and greater) can qualify for treatment.⁷ The state still requires the prescription to be written by a gastroenterologist, hepatologist, infectious disease specialist, or other hepatitis specialist.⁸ The consultation must have taken place within the past year and include documentation of the requested treatment regimen.⁹ The state updated its list of preferred Direct-Acting Antivirals (DAAs) to include Eplusa, Mavyret, and Zepatier.¹⁰ The provider must submit clinical documentation supporting the use of a non-preferred agent or regimen with the prior authorization.¹¹ Vermont does not impose sobriety restrictions.¹²

Liver Damage (Fibrosis) Restrictions

Vermont allows patients with F0 or greater to qualify for treatment.¹³

Sobriety Restrictions

Vermont does not impose sobriety restrictions.¹⁴

Prescriber Restrictions

Vermont requires a prescription to be written by or in consultation with a hepatologist, gastroenterologist, infectious disease specialist, or other hepatitis specialist.¹⁵ The consultation must be within the last year and include documentation regarding the requested regimen.¹⁶

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

Medicaid¹⁷: Cory Gustafson, Commissioner, Department of Vermont Health Access, State of Vermont
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Drug Utilization Review Board (DUR)¹⁸: Stacey Baker, Health Program Administrator, Pharmacy, Department of Vermont Health Access, State of Vermont

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¹ HepVu, Vermont State Profile (Accessed August 2017): <https://hepvu.org/state/vermont/>

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

³ Global Commitment to Health 11-2-00194/1, Sect. 1115 Demonstration Year: 10 (2015) State of Vermont Agency of Human (Accessed August 2017): <http://dvha.vermont.gov/global-commitment-to-health/ffy15-gc-annual-report-final.pdf>; See also: Handbook, Health Care Programs, Department of Health Access, Green Mountain Care (Accessed August 2017): http://www.greenmountaincare.org/sites/gmc/files/ctools/2016%20VT_HlthcareProgramsHandbook_FINAL.pdf; Medicaid & Dr. Dynasaur, Vermont Health Connect, Help Center (Accessed August 2017): <http://info.healthconnect.vermont.gov/Medicaid>

⁴ Ibid. Global Commitment to Health 11-2-00194/1, Sect. 1115 Demonstration Year: 10 (2015) State of Vermont Agency of Human

⁵ Ibid. Global Commitment to Health 11-2-00194/1, Sect. 1115 Demonstration Year: 10 (2015) State of Vermont Agency of Human

⁶ Medicaid Provider Letter, Department of Health Access, Agency of Human Services, State of Vermont, December 4, 2017 (Accessed January 2017): <http://dvha.vermont.gov/for-providers/hepatitis-fibrosisrestrictionchanges-final.pdf/view>

⁷ Ibid. Medicaid Provider Letter, Department of Health Access, Agency of Human Services, State of Vermont, December 4, 2017

⁸ Ibid. Medicaid Provider Letter, Department of Health Access, Agency of Human Services, State of Vermont, December 4, 2017

⁹ Ibid. Medicaid Provider Letter, Department of Health Access, Agency of Human Services, State of Vermont, December 4, 2017

¹⁰ Vermont Preferred Drug List and Drugs Requiring Prior Authorization, Updated: 01/01/18 (Accessed January 2018): <http://dvha.vermont.gov/for-providers/vermont-pdl-effective-01-01-18-december-minutes-2017-v2.pdf>; See also: Preferred Drug List and Clinical Criteria, For Providers, Vermont Department of Health Access (Accessed January 2018): <http://dvha.vermont.gov/for-providers/preferred-drug-list-clinical-criteria>

¹¹ Ibid. Vermont Preferred Drug List and Drugs Requiring Prior Authorization, Updated: 01/01/18; See also: Preferred Drug List and Clinical Criteria, For Providers, Vermont Department of Health Access

¹² Medicaid Provider Letter, Department of Health Access, Agency of Human Services, State of Vermont, February 17, 2017: <http://dvha.vermont.gov/for-providers/hepc-criteria-changes-02.17.17-final.pdf>

¹³ Ibid. Prior Authorization Request Form, Hepatitis C Treatment, Department of Health Access

¹⁴ Ibid. Prior Authorization Request Form, Hepatitis C Treatment, Department of Health Access; See also: Vermont Preferred Drug List and Drugs Requiring Prior Authorization, Updated: 01/01/18

¹⁵ Ibid. Medicaid Provider Letter, Department of Health Access, Agency of Human Services, State of Vermont, December 4, 2017

¹⁶ Ibid. Medicaid Provider Letter, Department of Health Access, Agency of Human Services, State of Vermont, December 4, 2017; See also: Prior Authorization Request Form, Hepatitis C Treatment, Department of Health Access; See also: Vermont Preferred Drug List and Drugs Requiring Prior Authorization, Updated: 01/01/18

¹⁷ Department of Vermont Health Access Contact Information (Accessed August 2017): <http://dvha.vermont.gov/organizational-information>

¹⁸ Drug Utilization Review Board Description & Information, Department of Vermont Health Access (Accessed August 2017): <http://dvha.vermont.gov/advisory-boards/drug-utilization-review-board-description-information>; See also: Drug Utilization Review Board Schedule (Accessed August 2017): <http://dvha.vermont.gov/advisory-boards/drug-utilization-review-board-meeting-schedule-2012>; See also: Department of Health Access Contact Information (Accessed August 2017): <http://dvha.vermont.gov/organizational-information>