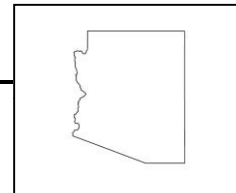


Hepatitis C: State of Medicaid Access Report Card

Arizona

Estimated Number of Individuals Living with Hepatitis C: 61,500¹



Grade	Summary
<p>B</p>	<p>Liver Damage (Fibrosis) Restrictions: Fee-For-Service (FFS) and six managed care organizations (MCOs), Arizona Complete Health, Banner-University Family Care, Molina, Mercy Care, Health Choice Arizona, and United Healthcare Community Plan, do not impose liver damage restrictions. One MCO, Care1st, does not publish hepatitis C coverage criteria.</p> <p>Sobriety Restrictions: FFS and five MCOs, Banner-University Family Care, Molina, Mercy Care, Health Choice Arizona, and UnitedHealthcare Community Plan do not impose sobriety restrictions. One MCO, Arizona Complete Health, requires three months sobriety from the request date of treatment. One MCO, Care1st, does not publish hepatitis C coverage criteria.</p> <p>Prescriber Restrictions: FFS and six MCOs (Arizona Complete Health, Banner-University Family Care, Molina, Mercy Care, Health Choice Arizona, and United Healthcare Community Plan) require a prescription to be written by or in consultation with a gastroenterologist, hepatologist, or infectious disease physician. One MCO, Care1st, does not publish hepatitis C coverage criteria.</p> <p>Recommendations to Improve Patient Access:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove prescriber requirements. • Ensure parity across FFS and MCO plans and transparency about hepatitis C coverage criteria. <p><i>Grade Rationale: FFS and most MCOs have significantly expanded access by removing liver damage restrictions and sobriety requirements. However, some MCOs still impose sobriety requirements and all beneficiaries face prescriber requirements impeding access to hepatitis C treatment.</i></p>

Background

As of June 2021, Arizona had 2,059,556 individuals enrolled in Medicaid and Children Health Insurance Program.² Arizona’s Medicaid program, known as the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS), requires all beneficiaries to enroll in a managed care organization (MCO) except American Indians/Alaska Natives enrolled in the Acute Care Program.³ They may choose to receive services through either a health plan or through the American Indian Health Program.⁴ Eighty-seven percent of Medicaid beneficiaries are enrolled in a MCO plan.⁵ Arizona contracts with 7 different MCOs: Arizona Complete Health, Banner-University Family Care, Care1st Health Plan, Molina Complete Care, Mercy Care, Health Choice Arizona, and UnitedHealthcare Community Plan.⁶

State of Medicaid Hepatitis C Treatment Access

FFS hepatitis C treatment criteria has been loosened over the years, and currently allows access to any individual regardless of liver damage lever. Additionally, as of October 2021, the FFS criteria no longer require a period of abstinence from drugs or alcohol prior to treatment and does not reference substance use at all. Hepatitis C medications must be prescribed by or in consultation with a gastroenterologist, hepatologist, or infectious disease physician. Additional criteria include a diagnosis of chronic hepatitis C confirmed by HCV RNA and genotype within 90 days of the prior authorization request. The prescriber must also assess the patient’s ability to adhere to treatment. Retreatment requests will not be approved if “a member was non-adherent to the initial DAA treatment regimen as evidenced by medical records and/or pharmacy prescription claims.”⁷

Five of the seven MCOs operating in the state (Banner-University Family Care, Molina, Mercy Care, Health Choice Arizona, United Healthcare Community Plan) either link directly to the FFS criteria or publish criteria that mirrors the FFS policy.⁸ One MCO (Arizona Complete Health) appears to have outdated coverage information and requires three months of sobriety prior to treatment in addition to a specialist consultation to qualify for treatment. One MCO, Care1st, does not publish hepatitis C coverage criteria.

Liver Damage (Fibrosis) Restrictions

FFS and six MCOs (Arizona Complete Health, Banner-University Family Care, Molina, Mercy Care, Health Choice Arizona, and United Healthcare Community Plan) do not impose liver damage restrictions. One MCO, Care1st, does not publish hepatitis C coverage criteria.

Sobriety Restrictions

FFS and five MCOs (Banner-University Family Care, Molina, Mercy Care, Health Choice Arizona, and United Healthcare Community Plan) do not impose sobriety restrictions.

One MCO (Arizona Complete Health) requires three months of sobriety from substances prior to treatment initiation.⁹

One MCO (Care1st) does not publish hepatitis C clinical coverage criteria.

Provider Restrictions

FFS and six MCOs (Arizona Complete Health, Banner-University Family Care, Molina, Mercy Care, Health Choice Arizona, and United Healthcare Community Plan) require a prescription to be written by or in consultation with a hepatologist, gastroenterologist, or infectious disease specialist. One MCO, Care1st, does not publish hepatitis C coverage criteria.

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

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¹ HepVu, Arizona State Profile: <https://hepvu.org/state/arizona/>

² Medicaid and CHIP in Arizona, By-State, Medicaid.gov: <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/by-state/stateprofile.html?state=arizona>

³ About the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS), AHCCCS Info: <https://www.azahcccs.gov/AHCCCS/AboutUs/>; See also: AHCCCS Care Delivery System, Updated July 1, 2021 (Accessed December 2021) <https://www.azahcccs.gov/AHCCCS/AboutUs/>

⁴ Ibid. AHCCCS Care Delivery System

⁵ Share of Medicaid Population Covered under Different Delivery Systems, The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, <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> (Accessed December 2021)

⁶ Available Health Plans, AHCCCS: <https://www.azahcccs.gov/Members/ProgramsAndCoveredServices/availablehealthplans.html>.

⁷ AHCCCS Medical Policy Manual Section 320-N, Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) Prior Authorization Requirements for Direct Acting Antiviral (DAA) Medication Treatment: <https://www.azahcccs.gov/shared/Downloads/MedicalPolicyManual/300/320-N.pdf>.

⁸ Banner - University Health Plans AHCCCS Prior Authorization Guidelines: https://www.banneruhp.com/-/media/files/project/uahp/pharmacy/buhp_ahcccs-prior-authorization-criteria_june2021.ashx?la=en; Molina Complete Care (MCC) Clinical Criteria, Molina: https://www.molinahealthcare.com/-/media/Molina/PublicWebsite/PDF/Providers/az/AZ-WEBP-20378-21MCClinCriteriaGuideFINAL_R.pdf; Pharmacy, Mercy Care: <https://www.mercycareaz.org/providers/rbha-forproviders/pharmacy-links-to-AHCCCS-criteria>; Health Choice Arizona Medication Prior Authorization Criteria: https://www.healthchoiceaz.com/wp-content/uploads/mdocs/Health%20Choice%20Arizona%20PA%20Criteria_eff08012021_INDEXED.pdf.

⁹ Clinical Policy: Glecaprevir/Pibrentasvir (Mavyret), Arizona Complete Health: https://www.azcompletehealth.com/content/dam/centene/az-complete-health/policies/pharm_pol/508_AZ.CP.PHAR.44.pdf; See also Pharmacy, Arizona Complete Health: <https://www.azcompletehealth.com/providers/pharmacy.html>; Care1st Health Plan Arizona Comprehensive Searchable PDL Tool with PA Criteria: <https://client.formularynavigator.com/Search.aspx?siteCode=5148290144> (search for a medication and click on the PA criteria button to view); see also Clinical Pharmacy Program Guidelines, UnitedHealthcare Community Plan, Updated December 1, 2021 (Accessed December 2021) <https://www.uhcprovider.com/content/dam/provider/docs/public/commplan/az/pharmacy-clinical-guidelines/AZ-UHC-Community-Plan-of-Arizona-Clinical-Pharmacy-Program-Guidelines-12-1-2021.pdf>

¹⁰ Medicaid Directors, National Association of Medicaid Directors (Accessed June 2017): <http://medicaiddirectors.org/about/medicaid-directors/>

¹¹ Pharmacy Information, Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System: <https://www.azahcccs.gov/Members/Pharmacy/> (Accessed December 2021); Note to register for Public Testimony for a Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee Meeting: <http://www.providersynergies.com/services/medicaid/Arizona/form.asp?content=Testimony>