

# Hepatitis C: State of Medicaid Access Report Card

## California



Grade	Recommendations to Improve Patient Access
A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Remove retreatment restrictions.</li></ul>

### State Overview

As of March 2025, 13,392,566 individuals were enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP.<sup>1</sup> It is estimated that as of 2016, 318,900 people were living with HCV in California.<sup>2</sup> While Medi-Cal operates a managed care program, as of January 1, 2022, all pharmacy services transitioned from managed care to fee-for-service using a uniform preferred drug list.<sup>3</sup>

The California Medicaid Preferred Drug List includes ledipasvir/sofosbuvir, sofosbuvir/velpatasvir, and glecaprevir/pibrentasvir.<sup>4</sup>

Deductions		Policy
Prior Authorization		Prior authorization is not required for preferred HCV treatment regimens. <sup>5</sup>
Fibrosis Restrictions		California Medicaid does not impose fibrosis restrictions. <sup>6</sup>
Substance Use Restrictions		California Medicaid does not impose substance use restrictions. <sup>7</sup>
Prescriber Restrictions		California Medicaid does not impose prescriber restrictions. <sup>8</sup>
Retreatment Restrictions	-8	California Medicaid imposes retreatment restrictions. The criteria state that "evidence of lack of adherence may result in denial of treatment reauthorization" and "caution shall be exercised with patients who have a history of treatment failure with prior HCV treatment due to non-adherence with treatment regimen and appointments." <sup>9</sup>
Access in Managed Care		California MCOs do not administer the Medicaid pharmacy benefit. <sup>10</sup>
Additional Restrictions		California Medicaid does not impose additional restrictions. <sup>11</sup>
<b>Total Deductions</b> -8	<b>Total Score [100-Deductions]</b> 92	
		<b>Grade</b> A

### Contact Your State Officials

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### Key Sources

**Preferred Drug List:** [California Department of Health Care Services, Medi-Cal Rx Contract Drugs List \(July 1, 2025\).](#)

**Clinical Criteria:** [California Department of Health Care Services, Treatment Policy for the Management of Chronic Hepatitis C \(Dec. 9, 2021\).](#)

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- <sup>1</sup> Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Medicaid & CHIP in California, <https://perma.cc/RB3X-AMHW>.
- <sup>2</sup> HepVu, Local Data: California, <https://perma.cc/3GBD-GJPQ>.
- <sup>3</sup> California Department of Health Care Services, Medi-Cal Rx: Transitioning Medi-Cal Pharmacy Services from Managed Care to Fee-for Service- Frequently Asked Questions (April 1, 2025), <https://perma.cc/6BB7-G8E6>.
- <sup>4</sup> Preferred Drug List.
- <sup>5</sup> Preferred Drug List.
- <sup>6</sup> Clinical Criteria.
- <sup>7</sup> Clinical Criteria.
- <sup>8</sup> Clinical Criteria.
- <sup>9</sup> Clinical Criteria.
- <sup>10</sup> California Department of Health Care Services, Medi-Cal Rx: Transitioning Medi-Cal Pharmacy Services from Managed Care to Fee-for Service- Frequently Asked Questions (April 1, 2025), <https://perma.cc/6BB7-G8E6>.
- <sup>11</sup> Clinical Criteria.
- <sup>12</sup> California Department of Health Care Services, Organization Chart, (July 2, 2025) <https://perma.cc/9BLN-6Q5A>.
- <sup>13</sup> California Department of Health Care Services, Organization Chart, (July 2, 2025) <https://perma.cc/9BLN-6Q5A>.