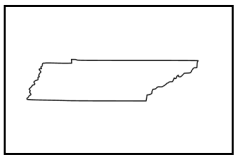
Hepatitis C: State of Medicaid Access Report Card

Tennessee



Grade	Recommendations to Improve Patient Access
A	• Remove prior authorization for HCV treatment.

State Overview

As of July 2026, 1,381,513 individuals enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP in Tennessee.[1] Tennessee has not expanded coverage to low-income adults.[2] Tennessee Medicaid is known as TennCare. While Tennessee Medicaid contracts with managed care organizations (MCOs), the pharmacy benefits are carved out of MCO contracts and administered by the state.[3] In a federal analysis of 2023-2024 Medicaid claims data, only 29% of Tennessee adult Medicaid beneficiaries newly identified with HCV received timely HCV treatment.[4]

The Tennessee Medicaid Preferred Drug List designates Epclusa, Mavyret, ledipasvir/sofosbuvir, and sofosbuvir/velpatasvir as preferred HCV treatment regimens.[5]

Deductions		Policy
Prior Authorization	-8	Prior authorization is required for all HCV treatment regimens.[6]
Fibrosis Restrictions		Tennessee Medicaid does not impose fibrosis restrictions.[7]
Substance Use Restrictions		Tennessee Medicaid does not impose substance use restrictions.[8]
Prescriber Restrictions		Tennessee Medicaid does not impose prescriber restrictions for most patients. If patients have "a history of HIV, HBC co-infection, prior history with direct acting hepatitis C antivirals, or decompensated cirrhosis" authorization must be requested "by or in consultation with a physician specialist with experience in the treatment of hepatitis C infection (e.g., Hepatology, Infectious Disease or Gastroenterology)."[9]
Retreatment Restrictions		Tennessee Medicaid does not impose retreatment restrictions.[10]
Access in Managed Care		Tennessee Medicaid excludes pharmacy benefits from MCO contracts, thus all MCOs follow TennCare requirements.[11]
Additional Restrictions		Tennessee Medicaid does not impose additional restrictions.[12]
Total Deductions -8	**Total Score [100-Deductions]** 92	**Grade** A

Contact Your State Officials

Medicaid Office[13]: Stephen Smith, Deputy Commissioner and Director of TennCare
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Pharmacy Advisory Committee[14]: Edward Capparelli, Chair
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Key Sources

Preferred Drug List: TennCare, Preferred Drug List (Oct. 1, 2026)
Clinical Criteria: TennCare, Clinical Criteria, Step Therapy, and Quantity Limits for TennCare Preferred Drug List (Oct. 1, 2026)
Prior Authorization: TennCare, Epclusa Prior Authorization Form (Sep. 2026) & TennCare, Mavyret Prior Authorization Form (Sep. 2026)

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[1] Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Medicaid & CHIP in Tennessee, https://www.medicaid.gov/state-overviews/stateprofile.html?state=tennessee.
[2] Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Medicaid & CHIP in Tennessee, https://www.medicaid.gov/state-overviews/stateprofile.html?state=tennessee.
[3] Division of TennCare, MCO Statewide Contract (Jul. 1, 2026), https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/tenncare/documents/MCOStatewideContract.pdf.
[4] U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General. *Less Than 25 Percent of Medicaid Beneficiaries With Hepatitis C Received Treatment Within 6 Months.* Data Brief OEI-BL-24-00450 (Nov. 2, 2026), https://perma.cc/PDA7-HQUM.
[5] Preferred Drug List.
[6] Preferred Drug List.
[7] Clinical Criteria.
[8] Prior Authorization.
[9] Clinical Criteria.
[10] Clinical Criteria.
[11] Kaiser Family Foundation, Annual Medicaid Budget Survey for State Fiscal Years 2023 and 2024, Kaiser Family Foundation (Nov. 14, 2023), https://perma.cc/4K6Y-8DEM.
[12] Prior Authorization.
[13] National Association of Medicaid Directors, Medicaid Directors, https://perma.cc/M4D9-CYY7.
[14] OptumRX, Tennessee Division of TennCare, https://welcome.optumrx.com/tenncare/forms?id=PAC%20Board%20Members.