

Hepatitis C: State of Medicaid Access Report Card

Texas

Estimated Number of Individuals Living with Hepatitis C: 202,500¹



Grade	Summary
<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; color: #800000;">C-</p>	<p>Liver Damage (Fibrosis) Restrictions: Texas requires moderate liver damage (F2 or greater) to qualify for treatment.</p> <p>Sobriety Restrictions: Texas requires screening for substance use within 90 days prior to submitting a prior authorization request.</p> <p>Prescriber Restrictions: Texas requires a prescription be written by or in consultation with a specialist.</p> <p>Recommendations to Improve Patient Access:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove liver damage, sobriety and prescriber restrictions. • Maintain coverage parity across the FFS and MCO programs. • Consider waiving prior authorization for treatment-naïve individuals. <p><i>Grade Rationale: Texas Medicaid FFS and MCOs severely restrict access to hepatitis C medications, requiring moderate liver damage, 90 days of sobriety and a prescription written by or in consultation with a specialist. With these restrictions, very few people with hepatitis C have access to treatment. Texas Medicaid requires MCOs to apply the FFS coverage criteria.</i></p>

Background

As of September 2020, Texas had 4,626,433 individuals enrolled in Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program.² Texas Medicaid operates a Fee-For-Service (FFS) program and contracts with Managed Care Organizations (MCOs.). Most beneficiaries, 94 percent, are enrolled in a MCO; the remaining 6 percent participate in FFS.³ Texas Medicaid currently contracts with 17 MCOs: Aetna, Amerigroup, BlueCross BlueShield of Texas (BCBS), Cigna-HealthSpring (Cigna), Community Health First Plans (CHFP), Community Health Choice (CHC), Cook Children’s, Dell Children’s Health Plan, Driscoll, El Paso First Health (El Paso), FirstCare, Molina Healthcare of Texas (Molina), Parkland Community Health (Parkland), Scott & White, Superior HealthPlan (Superior), Texas Children’s, and UnitedHealthcare (UHC).⁴ Texas requires all MCOs to apply FFS hepatitis C coverage requirements.⁵

State of Medicaid Hepatitis C Treatment Access

Texas Medicaid severely restricts access to hepatitis C medications. While the state requires all MCOs to follow its FFS treatment policy, the current protocol provides access to few individuals that need treatment.⁶ As of March 1, 2021, the state reduced its liver damage requirement from severe (F3) to moderate (F2 or greater) liver damage to qualify for treatment.⁷ However, beneficiaries must have one drug screen within 90 days prior to the prior authorization request, and prescriptions must be written by or in consultation with a specialist.⁸ The preferred drug list establishes Epclusa, Mavyret, and Vosevi as preferred agents.⁹

Liver Damage (Fibrosis) Restrictions

Texas requires moderate liver damage (F2 or greater) or beneficiaries to be diagnosed with hepatocellular carcinoma or be a liver transplant recipient.”¹⁰

Sobriety Restrictions

Texas Medicaid FFS requires a beneficiary to have a drug screen within 90 days of the prior authorization request.

Prescriber Restrictions

Texas requires a prescription to be written by or in consultation with a board-certified gastroenterologist, hepatologist, or infectious disease physician.

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¹ Texas, State Profile, Hepvu: <https://hepvu.org/state/texas/>

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

³ Share of Medicaid Population Covered Under Different Delivery Systems, Medicaid Market Tracker, 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>

⁴ MCO Resources, Texas Vendor Drug Program: <https://www.txvendordrug.com/resources/managed-care/mco-resources>

⁵ Revised Hepatitis C Drug Prior Authorization Forms Now Available, Texas Health and Human Services Commission: <https://www.txvendordrug.com/about/news/2021/02/revised-hepatitis-c-drug-prior-authorization-forms-now-available>. See also Pharmacy Clinical Prior Authorization Assistance Chart, Texas HSSC: <https://www.txvendordrug.com/sites/txvendordrug/files/docs/prior-authorization/cpa-assistance-chart.pdf>.

⁶ Revised Hepatitis C Drug Prior Authorization Forms Now Available, Texas Health and Human Services Commission: <https://www.txvendordrug.com/about/news/2021/02/revised-hepatitis-c-drug-prior-authorization-forms-now-available>. See also Pharmacy Clinical Prior Authorization Assistance Chart, Texas HSSC: <https://www.txvendordrug.com/sites/txvendordrug/files/docs/prior-authorization/cpa-assistance-chart.pdf>.

⁷ Revised Hepatitis C Drug Prior Authorization Forms Now Available, Texas Health and Human Services Commission: <https://www.txvendordrug.com/about/news/2021/02/revised-hepatitis-c-drug-prior-authorization-forms-now-available>. See also Pharmacy Clinical Prior Authorization Assistance Chart, Texas HSSC: <https://www.txvendordrug.com/sites/txvendordrug/files/docs/prior-authorization/cpa-assistance-chart.pdf>.

⁸ Revised Hepatitis C Drug Prior Authorization Forms Now Available, Texas Health and Human Services Commission: <https://www.txvendordrug.com/about/news/2021/02/revised-hepatitis-c-drug-prior-authorization-forms-now-available>. See also Pharmacy Clinical Prior Authorization Assistance Chart, Texas HSSC: <https://www.txvendordrug.com/sites/txvendordrug/files/docs/prior-authorization/cpa-assistance-chart.pdf>.

⁹ Preferred Drug List and Prior Authorization Criteria, Texas HSSC: <https://www.txvendordrug.com/formulary/prior-authorization/preferred-drugs>.

¹⁰ Revised Hepatitis C Drug Prior Authorization Forms Now Available, Texas Health and Human Services Commission: <https://www.txvendordrug.com/about/news/2021/02/revised-hepatitis-c-drug-prior-authorization-forms-now-available>. See also Pharmacy Clinical Prior Authorization Assistance Chart, Texas HSSC: <https://www.txvendordrug.com/sites/txvendordrug/files/docs/prior-authorization/cpa-assistance-chart.pdf>.

¹¹ DUR Board Contacts, Contact Us, About, Vendor Drug Program, Texas Health and Human Services (Accessed September 2017): <https://www.txvendordrug.com/about/contact/board>; Review this website for information on providing public and written testimony: <https://www.txvendordrug.com/resources/drug-utilization-review-board/dur-board-meetings>