

# Hepatitis C: State of Medicaid Access Report Card

Iowa

Estimated Number of Individuals Living with Hepatitis C: 24,600<sup>1</sup>



Grade	Summary
<p><b>D</b></p>	<p><b>Liver Damage (Fibrosis) Restrictions:</b> Fee-For-Service (FFS) requires severe liver damage (F3 or greater). All Managed Care Organizations (MCOs), Amerigroup Iowa, AmeriHealth Caritas Iowa and UnitedHealthcare Plan of River Valley, also require severe liver damage (F3 or greater).</p> <p><b>Sobriety Restrictions:</b> FFS requires at least three months sobriety from alcohol and substance use, documented by a urine screen. Additionally, a prescriber must provide counseling regarding alcohol and substance use and education to prevent transmission. All three MCOs, Amerigroup Iowa, AmeriHealth Caritas Iowa, and UnitedHealthcare Plan of River Valley, impose the same restrictions.</p> <p><b>Prescriber Restrictions:</b> FFS requires a liver, infectious disease or digestive disease specialist to prescribe. All three MCOs, Amerigroup Iowa, AmeriHealth Caritas Iowa, and UnitedHealthcare Plan of River Valley, impose the same restrictions.</p> <p><b>Recommendations to Improve Patient Access:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove liver damage, sobriety and prescriber restrictions.</li> <li>• Maintain transparency regarding hepatitis C coverage requirements and parity across FFS and MCO programs.</li> </ul> <p><i>Grade Rationale: Iowa has severe restrictions in all categories. With these restrictions, very few people with hepatitis C have access to treatment.</i></p>

## Background

As of July 2017, Iowa had 636,840 individuals enrolled in Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program.<sup>2</sup> Iowa operates a Fee-For-Service (FFS) program and contracts with Managed Care Organizations (MCOs), a program known as IA Health Link.<sup>3</sup> 96 percent of beneficiaries are enrolled in three MCOs: Amerigroup Iowa (Amerigroup), AmeriHealth Caritas Iowa (AmeriHealth) and UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of River Valley (UHC).<sup>4</sup> The remaining four percent participate in FFS.<sup>5</sup>

## State of Medicaid Hepatitis C Treatment Access

Iowa severely restricts access to hepatitis C medications. Both FFS and MCO programs impose the same coverage requirements and require prior authorization (PA).<sup>6</sup> Patients must be 18 years old to qualify for treatment.<sup>7</sup> The FFS program specifies a beneficiary must have severe liver damage (F3 or greater) and documented abstinence from alcohol and substance use for three months.<sup>8</sup> A digestive, liver or infectious disease specialist must prescribe.<sup>9</sup> The PA form requests if the beneficiary has a history of non-compliance. If yes, the prescriber must submit chart notes documenting steps taken to address non-compliance.<sup>10</sup> The PA form requests if the patient is receiving dialysis.<sup>11</sup> FFS requires if the patient is a woman of child-bearing age that she use two kinds of birth control and have pregnancy tests every month during treatment.<sup>12</sup> Lost or stolen medication replacement requests will not be authorized and hepatitis C medications are excluded from the 72-hour emergency supply rule.<sup>13</sup> The FFS Preferred Drug List (PDL) includes the following Direct-Acting Antivirals (DAAs): preferred (Harvoni, Sovaldi, Viekira XR, Viekira Pak, Technivie, Epclusa, Mavyret, Zepatier) and non-preferred (Olysio, Daklinza).<sup>14</sup>

The three MCO plans, Amerigroup,<sup>15</sup> AmeriHealth<sup>16</sup> and UHC,<sup>17</sup> impose the same hepatitis C coverage requirements detailed in the FFS PA. The MCOs also include the same DAAs on their PDLs as FFS.<sup>18</sup>

## Liver Damage (Fibrosis) Restrictions

Iowa FFS requires a beneficiary to have severe liver damage (F3 or greater).<sup>19</sup> Additionally, prescribers must submit *Post Treatment Hepatitis C Treatment Information – Sustained Virologic Response (SVR) Reporting* after 12 weeks of treatment.<sup>20</sup> The *SVR Reporting* form requests if the patient achieved cure and/or experienced any adverse events and requires viral load results to be submitted.<sup>21</sup>

Amerigroup, AmeriHealth and UHC also require severe liver damage (F3 or greater).<sup>22</sup> Amerigroup requests prescribers to submit the post-treatment SVR Reporting form.<sup>23</sup>

## Sobriety Restrictions

Iowa FFS requires at least three months sobriety from alcohol and substance use.<sup>24</sup> For patients with a history of alcohol or substance use, a prescriber must submit a urine screen.<sup>25</sup> Additionally, a prescriber must provide counseling regarding alcohol and substance use and education to prevent transmission.<sup>26</sup>

Amerigroup, AmeriHealth and UHC impose the same sobriety requirements.<sup>27</sup>

## Prescriber Restrictions

Iowa FFS requires a liver, infectious disease or digestive disease specialist to prescribe.<sup>28</sup>

Amerigroup, AmeriHealth, and UHC also require liver, infectious or digestive disease specialists to write the prescription.<sup>29</sup>

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

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<sup>1</sup> HepVu, Iowa State Profile: <https://hepvu.org/state/iowa/>

<sup>2</sup> Medicaid and CHIP in Iowa, By State, Medicaid.org (Accessed June 2017): <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/by-state/stateprofile.html?state=iowa>

<sup>3</sup> Member Services, Iowa Department of Human Services (Accessed June 2017): <http://dhs.iowa.gov/ime/members>

<sup>4</sup> Choosing a Health Plan, Iowa Department of Human Services (Accessed June 2017): <https://dhs.iowa.gov/iahealthlink/choosing-a-health-plan>

<sup>5</sup> Share of Medicaid Population Covered under Different Delivery Systems, The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, Medicaid Managed Care Market Tracker (Accessed July 2017): <http://www.kff.org/medicaid/state-indicator/share-of-medicaid-population-covered-under-different-delivery-systems/?currentTimeframe=0&sortModel=%7B%22colld%22:%22Location%22,%22sort%22:%22asc%22%7D>

<sup>6</sup> Hepatitis C Treatments, Request for Prior Authorization, Iowa Department of Human Services (Revised: 10/2017): <http://www.iowamedicaidpdl.com/sites/default/files/ghs-files/prior-authorization-forms/2017-09-06/hepatitis-c-treatments-pa-form-npi-oct-17.pdf> (Accessed June 2017); Hepatitis C Treatments, Request for Prior Authorization, Amerigroup (Version: 2017): [https://providers.amerigroup.com/PriorAuthorization%20Forms/IAIA\\_PA\\_HepatitisCTreatments.pdf](https://providers.amerigroup.com/PriorAuthorization%20Forms/IAIA_PA_HepatitisCTreatments.pdf); Hepatitis C Treatments, Request for Prior Authorization, AmeriHealth Caritas of Iowa: <http://amerihealthcaritas.com/pdf/provider/forms/pa-forms/hepatitis-c-treatments-pa-form.pdf>; Hepatitis C Treatments, Request for Prior Authorization, UnitedHealthcare Community Plan: [http://www.uhccommunityplan.com/content/dam/communityplan/healthcareprofessionals/pharmacyprogram/IA-Pharmacy/IA\\_Hepatitis\\_C\\_Treatments\\_PA\\_Form.pdf](http://www.uhccommunityplan.com/content/dam/communityplan/healthcareprofessionals/pharmacyprogram/IA-Pharmacy/IA_Hepatitis_C_Treatments_PA_Form.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> Ibid. Hepatitis C Treatments, Request for Prior Authorization, Iowa Department of Human Services (Revised: 10/2017)

<sup>8</sup> Ibid. Hepatitis C Treatments, Request for Prior Authorization, Iowa Department of Human Services (Revised: 10/2017)

<sup>9</sup> Ibid. Hepatitis C Treatments, Request for Prior Authorization, Iowa Department of Human Services (Revised: 10/2017)

<sup>10</sup> Ibid. Hepatitis C Treatments, Request for Prior Authorization, Iowa Department of Human Services (Revised: 10/2017)

<sup>11</sup> Ibid. Hepatitis C Treatments, Request for Prior Authorization, Iowa Department of Human Services (Revised: 10/2017)

<sup>12</sup> Ibid. Hepatitis C Treatments, Request for Prior Authorization, Iowa Department of Human Services (Revised: 10/2017)

<sup>13</sup> Ibid. Hepatitis C Treatments, Request for Prior Authorization, Iowa Department of Human Services (Revised: 10/2017)

<sup>14</sup> Preferred Drug List (PDL), Iowa Medicaid Program, Department of Human Services (Effective: October 1, 2017): <http://www.iowamedicaidpdl.com/sites/default/files/ghs-files/current-pdl/2017-09-06/ia-web-pdl2017octfinal.pdf>

<sup>15</sup> Hepatitis C Treatments, Request for Prior Authorization, Amerigroup (Version: 2017)

<sup>16</sup> Hepatitis C Treatments, Request for Prior Authorization, AmeriHealth Caritas of Iowa

<sup>17</sup> Hepatitis C Treatments, Request for Prior Authorization, UnitedHealthcare Community Plan

<sup>18</sup> Preferred Drug List (PDL), Amerigroup: [https://www.myamerigroup.com/ia/iaia\\_caid\\_pdl.pdf](https://www.myamerigroup.com/ia/iaia_caid_pdl.pdf); PDL, AmeriHealth Caritas: <http://www.iowamedicaidpdl.com/sites/default/files/ghs-files/current-pdl/2017-01-11/ia-web-pdl-002-1132017.pdf>; PDL, UnitedHealthcare: [http://www.iowamedicaidpdl.com/preferred\\_drug\\_lists](http://www.iowamedicaidpdl.com/preferred_drug_lists)

<sup>19</sup> Ibid. Hepatitis C Treatments, Request for Prior Authorization, Iowa Department of Human Services (Revised: 10/2017)

<sup>20</sup> Sustained Virologic Response (SVR) Reporting, Post Hepatitis C Treatment Information, Request for Prior Authorization - Addendum, Iowa Department of Human Services (March 2017): <http://www.iowamedicaidpdl.com/sites/default/files/ghs-files/prior-authorization-forms/2017-02-24/hep-c-reporting-pa-form-npi-mar-17.pdf> (Accessed June 2017)

<sup>21</sup> Ibid. Sustained Virologic Response (SVR) Reporting, Post Hepatitis C Treatment Information, Request for Prior Authorization - Addendum, Iowa Department of Human Services (March 2017)

<sup>22</sup> Ibid. Hepatitis C Treatments, Request for Prior Authorization, Amerigroup (Version: 2017); Hepatitis C Treatments, Request for Prior Authorization, AmeriHealth Caritas of Iowa; Hepatitis C Treatments, Request for Prior Authorization, UnitedHealthcare Community Plan

<sup>23</sup> Post Hepatitis C Treatment Information - Sustained Virologic Response (SVR) Reporting, Prior Authorization of Benefits (PAB) addendum, Amerigroup (Version April 2017): [https://providers.amerigroup.com/PriorAuthorization%20Forms/IAIA\\_PA\\_HepCSVRReportingForm.pdf](https://providers.amerigroup.com/PriorAuthorization%20Forms/IAIA_PA_HepCSVRReportingForm.pdf)

<sup>24</sup> Ibid. Hepatitis C Treatments, Request for Prior Authorization, Iowa Department of Human Services (Revised: 10/2017)

<sup>25</sup> Ibid. Hepatitis C Treatments, Request for Prior Authorization, Iowa Department of Human Services (Revised: 10/2017)

<sup>26</sup> Ibid. Hepatitis C Treatments, Request for Prior Authorization, Iowa Department of Human Services (Revised: 10/2017)

<sup>27</sup> Ibid. Hepatitis C Treatments, Request for Prior Authorization, Amerigroup (Version: 2017); Hepatitis C Treatments, Request for Prior Authorization, AmeriHealth Caritas of Iowa; Hepatitis C Treatments, Request for Prior Authorization, UnitedHealthcare Community Plan

<sup>28</sup> Ibid. Hepatitis C Treatments, Request for Prior Authorization, Iowa Department of Human Services (Revised: 10/2017)

<sup>29</sup> Ibid. Hepatitis C Treatments, Request for Prior Authorization, Amerigroup (Version: 2017); Hepatitis C Treatments, Request for Prior Authorization, AmeriHealth Caritas of Iowa; Hepatitis C Treatments, Request for Prior Authorization, UnitedHealthcare Community Plan

<sup>30</sup> Top Administrators, Iowa Department of Human Services: <http://dhs.iowa.gov/about/top-administrators>

<sup>31</sup> Pharmaceutical and Therapeutics Committee, Iowa Medicaid PDL, Iowa Department of Human Services: [http://www.iowamedicaidpdl.com/pt\\_committee\\_info](http://www.iowamedicaidpdl.com/pt_committee_info)