



EXAMINING HEPATITIS C VIRUS
TREATMENT ACCESS:
**A REVIEW OF SELECT STATE
MEDICAID FEE-FOR-SERVICE
AND MANAGED CARE PROGRAMS**

North Carolina



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Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) in North Carolina

Prevalence

- + There are an estimated 150,000 individuals living with hepatitis C virus (HCV) in North Carolina, of whom over 100,000 are chronically infected.¹

HIV Co-Infection

- + Data unavailable

Yearly Reported Cases²

- + Data unavailable

Age Breakdown

- + Data unavailable

Deaths

- + Data unavailable

State HCV Programs in North Carolina

North Carolina offers HCV testing, counseling, linkage to care, and referral services at sites throughout the state as part of integrated services for HIV and sexually transmitted infections (STI).³ North Carolina also participates in the *One and Only Campaign*, a program led by the CDC to raise awareness among patients and doctors about safe injection practices.⁴

Medicaid in North Carolina

Eligibility

North Carolina has chosen to not expand Medicaid, which means that only low-income individuals who also meet categorical requirements (such as being the parent of a child or being disabled) are eligible. In general, in order to qualify, parents of children must have an income of less than about 44% of the federal poverty level (FPL) (\$6,828/year for a family of two),⁵ with higher income thresholds for pregnant women and children. Aged, blind, or disabled individuals must have incomes less than about 100% FPL (\$11,676/year for an individual).⁶

Care Delivery

Most North Carolina Medicaid enrollees are required to participate in a primary care case management program, Carolina ACCESS (CA), and/or Community Care of North Carolina (CCNC) (an enhanced case management program).⁷ Within this system, medical providers are paid a fee for service and primary care providers participating in a network are provided a management fee, as is the network in which the provider is enrolled.⁸ Some Medicaid enrollees may request an exemption from participating in CCNC/CA.⁹

Medicaid Coverage of Sofosbuvir (Sovaldi)

Fee for Service

The North Carolina Medicaid Preferred Drug List Review Panel meets periodically throughout the year to discuss recommended policies and procedures related to the Medicaid preferred drug list.¹⁰ In general, these criteria are followed for all North Carolina Medicaid enrollees (whether enrolled in CA or CCNC or otherwise). While Sovaldi is not currently listed as either preferred or non-preferred, there are particular prior authorization criteria that apply.¹¹ In particular, in order to receive approval for Sovaldi, the following criteria must be met (note that additional criteria in other categories may also be required).¹²

Fibrosis Criteria

- + North Carolina does not appear to have any specific criteria with respect to fibrosis.

Requirements Related to Substance Use

- + For individuals with a history of alcohol abuse, a commitment to abstinence is required, and for individuals with a recent history of alcohol abuse (within the past year), enrollment in counseling or an active support group is also required.
- + It is not clear what a “commitment to abstinence” means, although individuals must agree to toxicology and/or alcohol screens as needed.

HIV Co-Infection Criteria

- + North Carolina does not appear to have any specific criteria with respect to HIV co-infection.

Prescriber Limitations

- + North Carolina does not appear to have any specific prescriber limitations.

Additional Adherence Requirements

- + North Carolina does not appear to have any additional adherence requirements.

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References

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2. Note that only acute hepatitis C cases are reportable in North Carolina. See *Hepatitis C, Notes about the Disease*, N.C. Department of Health & Human Services (July 2011), available at http://epi.publichealth.nc.gov/cd/lhds/manuals/cd/diseasenotes/HEPATITIS_C_DN.pdf. Among reported acute cases, there were high concentrations among individuals ages 17-41, and 45-53, *Email Communication from Robert Pace to author*, North Carolina Adult Viral Hepatitis Coordinator, Dec. 12, 2014.
3. *Programs & Services HIV/STD Testing*, N.C. Department of Health & Human Services, available at <http://epi.publichealth.nc.gov/cd/stds/programs/testing.html> (last visited Nov. 23, 2014).
4. *Viral Hepatitis*, N.C. Department of Health & Human Services, available at <http://epi.publichealth.nc.gov/cd/hepatitis/individuals.html> (last updated June 11, 2013); *About the Campaign, One and Only Campaign*, available at <http://www.oneandonlycampaign.org/about-the-campaign> (last visited Nov. 16, 2014).
5. *Who Is Eligible—Infants, Children & Families*, N.C. Department of Health & Human Services, available at <http://www.ncdhhs.gov/dma/medicaid/families.htm#families> (last visited Nov. 16, 2014).
6. *Who Is Eligible – Aged, Blind & Disabled*, N.C. Department of Health & Human Services, available at <http://www.ncdhhs.gov/dma/medicaid/abd.htm> (last visited Nov. 16, 2014); see also *Managed Care in North Carolina*, CTRs. For Medicaid and Medicare Services (Aug. 2014), available at <http://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid-chip-program-information/by-topics/delivery-systems/managed-care/downloads/north-carolina-mcp.pdf>.
7. *A Consumer's Guide to North Carolina Health Care Coverage Programs for Families & Children 14*, N.C. Department of Health & Human Services, available at <http://www.ncdhhs.gov/dma/forms/famchld.pdf> (last visited Nov. 16, 2014).
8. *History of Managed Care in NC*, N.C. Department of Health & Human Services, available at <http://www.ncdhhs.gov/dma/ca/overviewhistory.html> (last updated Nov. 10, 2014).
9. Medical reasons that might warrant such an exemption may include: complicated medical care, terminal illness, requirement to see many specialists, chemotherapy, or mental illness or developmental delay *Adult Medicaid Manual MA-2425 Community Care of North Carolina/Carolina ACCESS*, N.C. Department of Health & Human Services, available at <http://info.dhhs.state.nc.us/olm/manuals/dma/abd/man/MA2425-07.htm> (last visited Nov. 16, 2014).
10. *N.C. Medicaid Preferred Drug List Review Panel*, N.C. Div. of Medical Assistance, available at <http://www.ncdhhs.gov/dma/pharmacy/pdl.htm> (last visited Nov. 25, 2014).
11. *Preferred Drug List*, N.C. Div. of Medical Assistance (May 17, 2014), available at <http://www.ncdhhs.gov/dma/pharmacy/PDL.pdf>; *Prior Approval Criteria: Sovaldi (sofosbuvir)*, N.C. Div. of Medical Assistance (Aug. 15, 2014), available at <https://www.nctracks.nc.gov/content/public/dms/public/pdf/pharmacy/pa-drug-list-and-criteria/Sovaldi.pdf>.
12. *Prior Approval Criteria: Sovaldi (sofosbuvir)*, N.C. Div. of Medical Assistance (Aug. 15, 2014), available at <https://www.nctracks.nc.gov/content/public/dms/public/pdf/pharmacy/pa-drug-list-and-criteria/Sovaldi.pdf>.