



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

Florida



Florida

Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) in Florida¹

Prevalence

- + As of 2009 (the most recent year for which data are available) about 300,000 Florida residents were estimated to be living with hepatitis C virus (HCV).²

HCV/HIV Co-Infection

- + Based on a data match between reported HIV and HCV cases, as of 2008, approximately 7,365 individuals were living with HIV and HCV co-infection.³

Yearly Reported Cases

- + From 2002-2006, a total of 98,049 cases of HCV were reported to the state.⁴ Most cases were among individuals in the baby-boomer generation, with about 37% of reported cases during this period among individuals ages 40-49.⁵

Deaths

- + Unavailable

State HCV Programs in Florida

Florida offers many services relating to hepatitis C including: Hepatitis 101 Training (for nurses, counselors, and outreach workers); free testing and laboratory services in some specific counties; educational materials; and support groups.⁶

Medicaid in Florida

Eligibility

Florida has chosen to not expand Medicaid, which means that only low-income individuals who also meet categorical requirements (such as having a disability or being the parent of a child) are eligible.⁷ In general, in order to qualify, parents of children must have an income of less than 19% of the federal poverty level (FPL) (\$2,989/year for a family of two),⁸ with higher income thresholds for pregnant women and children). Aged, blind, or disabled individuals must have incomes less than 88% FPL (\$10,270/year for an individual).⁹

Care Delivery

Most Florida Medicaid recipients are enrolled in one of 14 managed care plans throughout the state.¹⁰ Some limited categories of individuals still receive care through fee for service (such as individuals who are residents of a developmental disability center or enrolled in the developmental disabilities home and community-based services waiver).¹¹

Medicaid Coverage of Sofosbuvir (Sovaldi)

Fee for Service

The Florida Medicaid Pharmaceutical and Therapeutics Committee determines which drugs will be added or removed from the Medicaid preferred drugs list as well as prior authorization criteria for the fee-for-service program, and meets routinely throughout the year.¹² All Florida Medicaid managed care plans' formularies and prior authorization criteria must also follow the Florida Medicaid prior authorization criteria as determined by the Committee.¹³

Sovaldi is covered under the Florida Medicaid Preferred Drug Program, but it is not listed on the Preferred Drug List indicating that it is non-preferred drug.¹⁴ As a non-preferred drug, Sovaldi requires certain prior authorization requirements be met for patients seeking treatment.¹⁵ In order to receive approval for Sovaldi, the following criteria must be met (note that additional criteria in other categories may also be required)¹⁶:

Fibrosis Criteria

- + Individuals must have evidence of stage 3 or stage 4 hepatic fibrosis, including one of the following:
 - › Liver biopsy confirming a Metavir score of F3 or F4; or
 - › Transient elastography (FibroScan[®]) score greater than or equal to 9.5 kPa; or
 - › FibroTest[®] score of greater than or equal to 0.58; or
 - › APRI score greater than 1.5; or
 - › Radiological imaging consistent with cirrhosis (e.g., evidence of portal hypertension); or
 - › Physical findings or clinical evidence consistent with cirrhosis as attested by the prescribing physician.

Requirements Related to Substance Use

- + Individuals must have abstained from the use of illicit drugs and alcohol for a minimum of 1 month as evidenced by negative urine or blood confirmation tests collected within the past 30 days, prior to initiation of therapy (results must be submitted with request).
 - › If the test results submitted are positive, the reviewer must review the patient's claims history or medical records to determine if the medications can be prescribed.
- + Alternatively, the individual must be receiving substance or alcohol abuse counseling services or seeing an addiction specialist as an adjunct to HCV treatment, and it must be documented in the medical records.

HIV Co-Infection Criteria

- + Individuals co-infected with HIV-1 must additionally meet the following criteria:
 - › Documented HIV-1 diagnosis; AND
 - › CD4 count greater than 500 cells/mm³, if patient is not taking antiretroviral therapy; OR
 - › CD4 count greater than 200 cells/mm³, if patient is virologically suppressed (e.g., HIV RNA <200 copies/mL)

Prescriber Limitations

- + The requesting prescriber must be a hepatologist, gastroenterologist, infectious disease specialist, or transplant physician.

Additional Adherence Requirements

- + Florida also has additional "completion of therapy review criteria," which include:
 - › No sign(s) of high-risk behavior (recurring alcoholism, IV drug use, etc.) or failure to complete HCV disease evaluation appointments and procedures should be evident in follow-up reviews.
- + In addition, continuation of treatment will only be authorized for members who are 100% compliant to the regimen as verified by the prescriber and member's medication fill history.

With special thanks to our Harvard Law School students,
James Fullmer, Kellen Wittkop, & Stephen Shaw,
for their help in researching and writing this state profile

References

1. *Florida Hepatitis Surveillance Report from 2002-2006*, Fla. Dept. of Health Hepatitis Prevention Program (Jan. 2009), available at <http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/hepatitis/documents/5-Year-Report-Jan2-09.pdf>.
2. *Florida Hepatitis Surveillance Report from 2002-2006*, Fla. Dept. of Health Hepatitis Prevention Program (Jan. 2009), available at <http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/hepatitis/documents/5-Year-Report-Jan2-09.pdf>.
3. *HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C (HCV) Coinfection – Florida*, Fla. Dept. of Health, Bureau of HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis Program & Surveillance Section (Dec. 2008), available at <http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/hepatitis/documents/HepC-HIV-Coinfection.pdf>.
4. *Florida Hepatitis Surveillance Report from 2002-2006*, Fla. Dept. of Health Hepatitis Prevention Program (Jan. 2009), available at <http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/hepatitis/documents/5-Year-Report-Jan2-09.pdf>.
5. *Florida Hepatitis Surveillance Report from 2002-2006*, Fla. Dept. of Health Hepatitis Prevention Program (Jan. 2009), available at <http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/hepatitis/documents/5-Year-Report-Jan2-09.pdf>.
6. *Hepatitis*, Fla. Dept. of Health, available at <http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/hepatitis/index.html> (last visited Nov. 17, 2014).
7. *Medicaid*, Fla. Dept. of Children & Families, available at <http://www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/access-florida-food-medical-assistance-cash/Medicaid> (last visited Nov. 17, 2014).
8. *See Medicaid*, Fla. Dept. of Children & Families, available at <http://www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/access-florida-food-medical-assistance-cash/Medicaid> (last visited Nov. 17, 2014).
9. *See SSI Related Medicaid Programs Fact Sheet*, Fla. Dept. of Children & Families (Sept. 2014), available at <http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/programs/access/docs/ssifactsheet.pdf>.
10. *See A Snapshot of the Florida Medicaid Managed Medical Assistance Program*, Fla. Agency for Health Care Admin. (July 10, 2014), available at http://www.fdhc.state.fl.us/Medicaid/statewide_mc/pdf/mma/SMMC_MMA_Snapshot.pdf.
11. *See A Snapshot of the Florida Medicaid Managed Medical Assistance Program*, Fla. Agency for Health Care Admin. (July 10, 2014), available at http://www.fdhc.state.fl.us/Medicaid/statewide_mc/pdf/mma/SMMC_MMA_Snapshot.pdf.
12. *Prescribed Drugs Coverage, Limitations, and Reimbursement Handbook 3-xxxv*, Fla. Agency for Health Care Admin. (June 2012), available at http://ahca.myflorida.com/Medicaid/Prescribed_Drug/meetings.shtml.
13. Viohl and Associates, *The Sovaldi Squeeze: High Costs Force Tough State Decisions*, at 2 (Sept. 29, 2014), available at <http://www.mhpa.org/upload/SovaldiSqueeze-Oct2014.pdf>.
14. *See Florida Medicaid Comprehensive Preferred Drug List*, WellCare of Fla. (Aug. 1, 2014), available at https://florida.wellcare.com/WCAAssets/florida/assets/fl_caid_eng_08_2014.pdf.
15. *See SOVALDI (sofosbuvir)*, Fla. Agency for Health Care Admin. (Oct. 30, 2014), available at http://ahca.myflorida.com/Medicaid/Prescribed_Drug/drug_criteria_pdf/Sovaldi_Criteria.pdf.
16. *See SOVALDI (sofosbuvir)*, Fla. Agency for Health Care Admin. (Oct. 30, 2014), available at http://ahca.myflorida.com/Medicaid/Prescribed_Drug/drug_criteria_pdf/Sovaldi_Criteria.pdf.