



**PURPOSE:** This resource guide was developed in partnership with the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (DHS). The guide addresses frequently asked questions providers encounter when offering hepatitis C testing, management and treatment.

## HEPATITIS C TESTING QUESTIONS

- **Who should be tested for hepatitis C?**
  - All adults 18 years and older at least once in their lifetime.
  - All pregnant women during each pregnancy.
  - At least one-time testing for:
    - People who have ever injected drugs.
    - People living with HIV.
    - People with abnormal liver tests, liver disease, or who are on hemodialysis.
    - People who received blood or organ donations before July 1992.
    - People who received clotting factor concentrate before 1987.
    - Health care, emergency medical, and public safety personnel after needle sticks, sharps, or mucosal exposures to hepatitis C virus (HCV)-positive blood.
    - Infants and children born to people with known HCV infection.
  - Periodic testing for:
    - People with ongoing risk factors, including people who currently inject drugs and share needles, syringes, or other drug equipment.
    - People with certain medical conditions, including those who have ever received maintenance hemodialysis.
    - Any person who requests hepatitis C testing.
- **What hepatitis C test should be ordered?**
  - If a patient has never been diagnosed with hepatitis C before, a hepatitis C antibody test should be ordered with automatic reflex to HCV RNA testing.
  - If a patient has been diagnosed with hepatitis C in the past, hepatitis C antibody will remain positive for life. The patient should be tested for HCV RNA to determine if they have an active infection.
- **Do all obstetric panels include hepatitis C testing?**
  - No. Please ensure the obstetric panel you order includes hepatitis C testing. All pregnant women should be tested for hepatitis C during each pregnancy, preferable early in pregnancy.
- **Is training available for providers interested in providing hepatitis C treatment?**
  - Empire Liver Foundation archived hepatitis B and C trainings with continuing education credits: [Hepatitis Provider Training - Empire Liver Foundation](#)
  - Mid-Atlantic AIDS Education and Training Center (MAAETC) on demand hepatitis B and C trainings with continuing education credits through September 15, 2026:
    - <https://www.maaetc.org/events/view/27275>
    - <https://www.maaetc.org/events/view/27274>
    - <https://www.maaetc.org/events/view/27148>
  - UCSF [hotline](#) for hepatitis C consultation is also available
- **What additional testing is recommended following an HCV RNA positive result before hepatitis C medication may be initiated in Pennsylvania?**
  - Medicaid FFS and Managed Care Organizations (MCO) do not require/recommend any testing before hepatitis C treatment initiation; however, additional testing is recommended through professional organizations.
    - Genotyping – only if recommended by the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases ([AASLD](#))



- Cirrhosis assessment by a noninvasive test (e.g., blood test or imaging, a Fibroscan, FIB-4 calculation, or findings on physical examination) ([AASLD](#))
- Resistance-associated substitution (RAS) testing – only if recommended by the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases ([AASLD](#))
- AASLD guidelines advise hepatitis b and HIV testing for those diagnosed with hepatitis C.
- **May hepatitis C medication be initiated based on a positive point-of-care (POC) HCV RNA positive result? Or is a blood draw required?**
  - Yes. [AASLD](#) guidelines state, “Assessment of viral response, including documentation of SVR, requires use of an FDA-approved quantitative or qualitative nucleic acid test (NAT) with a detection level of  $\leq 25$  IU/mL.”
  - Adherence to [AASLD](#) HCV guidelines is still required when using a POC HCV RNA test and additional testing is required as described above.
  - While a POC HCV test is not on the current Medicaid FFS fee schedule, providers can request a program exception for the test or work with the MCOs to streamline the process. [CodeMap®-Cepheid Coding Reference](#)
    - CPT 87521
  - Cepheid POC HCV test
    - Sensitivity = 93.4%
    - Specificity = 99.8
    - PPV = 98.2%
    - NPV = 99.1%
- **Does a patient need to abstain from alcohol and drugs prior to receiving hepatitis C medication?**
  - No, sobriety restrictions were removed from the prior authorization of hepatitis C agents in 2021 in Pennsylvania.
- **Is SVR4 an appropriate approach?**
  - In an effort to simplify treatment, [AASLD and the Infectious Diseases Society of America](#) now considers SVR4 to be an acceptable indicator of a cure for people without cirrhosis who are being treated with DAAs for the first time. An updated algorithm is available here: [HepC Test Initial Visit NEW Figure 1 Version 1](#)

## HEPATITIS C BILLING QUESTIONS

- **Which physical health MCOs are available in my area?**
  - [Pa Medicaid MCO Directory](#)
  - [Pa HealthChoices Regional Map](#)
- **Where can I find contact information for each MCO?**
  - Enhanced Member Supports Unit
    - [HealthChoices Enhanced Member Supports Unit](#)
    - AmeriHealth Caritas: 1-800-684-5503
    - Geisinger Health Plan: 1-855-214-8100
    - Health Partners Plans
      - Email: [clinicalconnections@jeffersonhealth.com](mailto:clinicalconnections@jeffersonhealth.com)
      - Phone 1-215-845-4797 or 1-866-500-4571
    - Highmark Wholecare
      - Email: Diana Lowry [diana.lowry@highmark.com](mailto:diana.lowry@highmark.com)
      - Phone: 1-800-392-1147
    - Keystone First: 1-800-573-4100
    - United Health Care Community Plan: 1-877-844-8844
    - UPMC for You: Care Management Support (1-866-463-1462)



- Pharmacy
  - AmeriHealth Caritas
    - Email: [info@performrx.com](mailto:info@performrx.com)
    - PerformRx Phone: (866) 533-5492
  - Geisinger Health Plan
    - Email: Kevin Szczecina ([kjszczecina@geisinger.edu](mailto:kjszczecina@geisinger.edu))
    - Phone: 570-271-7334
  - Health Partners Plans: Connie Chan, PharmD [cchan@jeffersonhealthplans.com](mailto:cchan@jeffersonhealthplans.com)
  - Highmark Wholecare: Lisa Nogrady ([lisa.nogrady@highmark.com](mailto:lisa.nogrady@highmark.com))
  - Keystone First
    - Email: [info@performrx.com](mailto:info@performrx.com)
    - PerformRx Phone: (866) 533-5492
  - United Health Care Community Plan:
    - Email: Kevin Spencer, PharmD [kevin.spencer@uhc.com](mailto:kevin.spencer@uhc.com)
    - Phone: Pharmacy Help Desk 800-310-6826
  - UPMC for You: Lauren Zandier: [craigl@upmc.edu](mailto:craigl@upmc.edu)
- **Which behavioral health managed care organizations are available in my area?**
  - <https://www.pa.gov/agencies/dhs/resources/medicaid/bhc/bhc-mcos.html>
- **Do physical health MCOs cover viral hepatitis related services?**
  - MCOs are required to cover medically necessary services that are recommended by governmental and professional evidence-based guidelines for screening, testing, and treatment of hepatitis. Vaccinations for hepatitis A and B are also covered. MCOs should also help coordinate care and assure those treated for hepatitis C complete treatment.
  - MCOs work with the Opioid Use Disorder Centers of Excellence (COEs), the Patient Centered Medical Home Program, Perinatal Quality Collaborative, and other physical health providers to appropriately facilitate referrals or directly screen, test, and treat individuals for hepatitis. COEs are evaluated on their screening rates for hepatitis C.
  - Physical Health MCOs should coordinate with their behavioral health counterparts to coordinate hepatitis C testing and linkage to care for clients in need.
- **What CPT codes are available for hepatitis C?**
  - Hepatitis C CPT codes provided in attached documents. Not all codes listed may be on the FFS fee schedule but can be requested via Program Exception to the FFS program and the HealthChoices MCOs.
  - [MA Fee Schedule | Department of Human Services | Commonwealth of Pennsylvania](#)
- **Is a specialty pharmacy required to provide hepatitis C medications?**
  - For beneficiaries receiving benefits through the Fee-For-Service (FFS) delivery system, Hepatitis C medications are included on the FFS Specialty Drug List and must be obtained from the DHS' Preferred Specialty Pharmacy (Chartwell Pennsylvania). Additional information on the FFS Specialty Drug Program can be found here. <https://www.pa.gov/agencies/dhs/resources/pharmacy-services/specialty-pharmacy-program>
  - Providers rendering services to Medical Assistance (MA) beneficiaries in the MA managed care delivery system should address any questions related to specialty pharmacy to the appropriate MCO.
    - AmeriHealth Caritas, Keystone First
      - A specialty pharmacy is required to dispense hepatitis C medications.
        - The specialty pharmacies that can be used in PerformRx's network are listed in the directory here:
        - <https://www.amerihealthcaritaspa.com/pdf/pharmacy/specialty-pharmacy-directory.pdf>



- Geisinger Health Plan - hepatitis medications are included under the Specialty Pharmacy Program. The specialty list can be found [here](#)
  - Health Partners Plans - hepatitis medications are included under the Specialty Pharmacy Program. In network pharmacies must be used - <https://www.healthpartnersplans.com/home/providers/clinical-resources/medication-management-and-adherence/>
  - Highmark Wholecare – hepatitis medications are included under the Specialty Pharmacy Program but there is not requirement to use a specific specialty pharmacy. [Specialty Pharmacy | Highmark Wholecare](#)
  - United – hepatitis C medications are not included under the Specialty Pharmacy Program.
  - UPMC for You - hepatitis medications are included under the Specialty Pharmacy Program but there is no requirement to use a specific specialty pharmacy.
- **Is prior authorization required?**
    - Prior authorization for preferred hepatitis C agents was removed in 2024 in Pennsylvania.
      - <https://www.pa.gov/content/dam/copapwp-pagov/en/dhs/documents/docs/publications/documents/forms-and-pubs-omap/MAB2023110705.pdf>
- **Can the entire fill of hepatitis C medication be dispensed at once?**
    - Medicaid FFS permits 30-day supplies to be filled at the DHS’ preferred specialty pharmacy provider.
    - Providers rendering services to MA beneficiaries in the MA managed care delivery system should inquire with specific MCOs for day supply limitations.
      - Highmark Wholecare allows an entire fill of hepatitis C medication to be dispensed at once to a client.
- **What incentives are available to provide viral hepatitis services reimbursable by Medicaid?**
    - DHS will make a one-time payment in the amount of \$1,000 to the PH-MCO for each Member with a diagnosis of Hepatitis C that has received Hepatitis C medication(s), as identified on DHS’ Specialty Drug List, within the given calendar year and received a subsequent laboratory test that confirms the Member has achieved cure.
      - [2026 HealthChoices Agreement including Exhibits and Non-Rate Financial Appendices Draft Exhibit B\(6\) page 320.](#)
- **What other programs are available to facilitate viral hepatitis service delivery?**
    - Street medicine - [Bulletin](#).
    - Enhanced Member Supports Units available through each physical health MCO to facilitate linkage to care. (Referenced above)
    - Interprofessional [Consultation](#) Services Bulletin.