

MO HealthNet launches Project Hep Cure to eliminate hepatitis C in Missouri's Medicaid population

What is Project Hep Cure?

Project Hep Cure offers MO HealthNet participants with hepatitis C treatment at no cost. It also focuses on:

- Educating the public about hepatitis C and treatment options.
- Informing providers about the latest treatment options.
- Making hepatitis C treatment easier to get for MO HealthNet participants.

Project Hep Cure is an initiative to cure hepatitis C by making prescription MAVYRET® available to MO HealthNet participants at no cost. MAVYRET is an eight-week* treatment that is proven to cure hepatitis C 98% of the time. Anyone who has MO HealthNet coverage and has tested positive for hepatitis C is eligible for treatment.

Who should be screened for hepatitis C?

The CDC recommends anyone age 18 and older get a one-time test for hepatitis C. **Pregnant women should be tested during each pregnancy.** Additionally, consider testing any patients who have the following risk factors:

- Are a baby boomer (born between 1945 to 1965) or a millennial (born between 1981 to 1996)
- Have been exposed to unsterilized needles
- Have liver disease
- Have HIV/AIDS
- Have received dialysis

About the treatment

MAVYRET is the fastest oral treatment option for hepatitis C. This antiviral treatment cures hepatitis C with a combination of glecaprevir and pibrentasvir, which work together to stop the virus from copying.

In most cases, patients will need to take three pills once a day for eight weeks. Twelve weeks after their treatment ends, patients will need to be tested for hepatitis C to make sure it is no longer present in their bloodwork. According to clinical studies, MAVYRET is about 98% effective in curing hepatitis C.

MAVYRET is not recommended for those who are pregnant or lactating.

Do I need prior authorization to prescribe treatment?

No, prescription MAVYRET does not require prior authorization and is proven to cure hepatitis C 98% of the time. It is also important to note there are:

- No provider restrictions.
- No fibrosis restrictions.
- No sobriety restrictions.

* Standard eight-week treatment is used for eligible patients as determined by their healthcare provider.

<https://provider.healthybluemo.com>

Healthy Blue is a Medicaid product offered by Missouri Care, Inc., a MO HealthNet Managed Care health plan contracting with the Missouri Department of Social Services. Healthy Blue is administered statewide by Missouri Care, Inc. and administered in the Kansas City service region by Missouri Care, Inc. in cooperation with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas City. Missouri Care, Inc. and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas City are both independent licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

Recommended Hepatitis C best practices

You play a critical role in helping patients access the care they need to stay healthy. The following best practices may be helpful to you as you identify, cure, and prevent cases of hepatitis C. Hepatitis C screenings should be given to anyone who:

- Is age 18 or older (at least once).
- Is born between 1945 to 1965 (baby boomer) or 1981 to 1996 (millennial).
- Has a history of injection drug use or exposure to unsterilized needles.
- Has liver disease.
- Has HIV/AIDS.
- Has received dialysis.
- Is pregnant (screen during each pregnancy).

Routine periodic screenings should be completed based on ongoing risk factors for exposure, including injection drug use and treatment for medical conditions with hemodialysis:

- Follow up with antibody-positive patients for a confirmatory RNA test.
- Implement protocols to promote screening and access to hepatitis C treatment.
- Integrate hepatitis C treatment into your clinical practice.
- Counsel hepatitis C-positive patients on adherence to treatment, transmission prevention, liver health, and the consequences of not receiving treatment (including cirrhosis, hepatocellular carcinoma, and death).
- Counsel hepatitis C-negative patients who have continued risk factors about prevention strategies, such as safer drug use practices, access to care, treatment, and recovery services.

You may refer to Show-Me ECHO for expert support for managing and curing hepatitis C through virtual learning. This option allows specialists from the University of Missouri, Saint Louis University, and Swope Health to share and discuss the latest and best evidence-based practices with primary care providers throughout the state. ECHO's collaborative case-based learning sessions are offered at no cost to participating providers and organizations. Learn more at <https://showmeecho.org/clinics/hepatitis-c>.

Your support and participation is key to the success of Project Hep Cure. Our goal is to work with you to make this treatment available and easily accessible to MO HealthNet participants with hepatitis C. For your convenience, provider resources and a toolkit are available at <https://dss.mo.gov/mhd/hepc>.



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To start receiving email from us (including some sent in lieu of fax or mail), submit your information using the QR code to the right or via our online form (<https://bit.ly/3pFDnV5>).