



State of New Jersey  
 Department of Human Services  
 Division of Medical Assistance & Health Services

# NEWSLETTER

Volume 28 No. 11

July 2018

**TO:** All providers, Health Maintenance Organizations – **For Action**

**SUBJECT:** **NJ FamilyCare Coverage of Hepatitis C Treatment**

**EFFECTIVE:** Claims with service dates on or after July 1, 2018

**PURPOSE:** To notify NJFC providers and managed Medicaid plans of a policy change by the New Jersey Department of Human Services, Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services (DMAHS) expanding NJFC coverage of hepatitis C treatment.

**BACKGROUND:** The Metavir scoring system is a system used to assess the extent of inflammation, fibrosis and/or cirrhosis of the liver by performing a histopathological evaluation of a liver biopsy obtained from patients diagnosed with liver fibrosis. The Metavir score relates to different stages of liver findings, as indicated below:

Metavir Score	Stage of Liver Fibrosis
F0 – F1	Absent or mild fibrosis
F2	Significant fibrosis
F3	Severe fibrosis
F4	Cirrhosis

Based on guidance from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and initial recommendations from the American Association for the Study of Liver Disease (AASLD) and the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA), the New Jersey Drug Utilization Review Board (NJDURB) initially recommended coverage for Metavir scores F3-F4 in June 2014. In June 2016, the Board recommendation was to expand coverage to a Metavir score of F2, eliminating certain constraints related to drug coverage, such as lifetime limits and concomitant drug and/or alcohol use.

As of September 21, 2017, the AASLD recommends treatment for all patients with a chronic hepatitis C viral (HCV) infection, except those with a short life expectancy that cannot be remediated by HCV therapy, liver transplantation or another directed therapy.

Based on this recommendation and a nationwide pattern of policy decisions related to hepatitis C treatment, the State of New Jersey is expanding coverage of hepatitis C treatment to include individuals with Metavir scores F0 through F4.

**ACTION:** Effective for claims with service dates on or after July 1, 2018, NJFC FFS and managed care coverage of hepatitis C treatment shall be expanded to include individuals diagnosed with chronic hepatitis C with a Metavir score F0 through F4.

- FFS or managed care coverage of hepatitis C treatment requires prior authorization.
- Diagnosis of a chronic hepatitis C infection is required based on bloodwork showing detectable HCV RNA levels within the past 90 days. The HCV genotype must also be identified.
- For individuals with liver fibrosis, the Metavir fibrosis stage or other objective documentation of fibrosis must be confirmed before prior authorization is issued.
- Hepatitis C treatment shall only be covered when prescribed by a hepatologist, gastroenterologist, infectious disease specialist or a liver transplant specialist.
- Drug Utilization Review (DUR) standards recommended by the NJDURB and approved by the State shall apply to all medications covered by the NJFC program.

If you have any questions concerning this Newsletter, please contact Molina Medicaid Solutions Provider Services at 1-800-776-6334.

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