

To: AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana Providers

Date: April 6, 2022

Subject: Chronic Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) Pharmaceutical Treatment

Summary: Information is provided regarding HCV pharmaceutical treatment.

Effective summer 2019, AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana members have access to safe and effective treatment for Hepatitis C. In conjunction with treatment, AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana is providing education to practitioners regarding evidence-based treatment and formulary coverage.

The most common risk factor for HCV is past or current drug use via injection. Members with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) also are at higher risks to contract HCV due to shared transmission modes.

As a reminder, there should be *routine periodic testing* for people with ongoing risk factors *and* any person who requests Hepatitis C testing. Click to view the CDC's [recommended testing sequence for identifying current hepatitis c virus infection](#), and also the [recommended interpretation of test results and further actions](#).

What do you need to know? One of the approved pharmaceutical treatments is **Epclusa** (sofosbuvir/velpatasvir). Members have open access to the authorized generic (AG) of Epclusa, which has proven effective in curing 95% of persons living with HCV (LDH, 2019a). Generic Epclusa is the preferred direct-acting antiviral (DAA) which may be taken over the course of 12 weeks, and *does not require prior authorization* unlike other available treatment regimens (LA Medicaid, 2019).

More members may be treated due to the simplification of treatment regimens and the increased number of providers who can prescribe the medication, including primary care providers, specialists, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants. For more information regarding Epclusa, please view the [Epclusa prescribing information](#) here.

References:

Louisiana Department of Health (LDH). Hepatitis C. <http://ldh.la.gov/index.cfm/page/1012> [4 November 2019a].

Louisiana Medicaid. Authorization Criteria for Hepatitis C DAA Agents for Medicaid July 2019.

Louisiana Office of Public Health (LA OPH). Epidemiologic Profile of Hepatitis C Virus Infection in Louisiana – 2015.

Questions: Thank you for your continued support and commitment to the care of our members. If you have questions about this communication, please contact AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana Provider Services at 1-888-922-0007 or your [Provider Network Management Account Executive](#).

Missed an alert? You can find a complete listing of provider alerts on the [Provider Newsletters and Updates](#) page of our website.

Need to update your provider information? Send full details to network@amerihealthcaritasla.com.

Where can I find more information on COVID-19?

AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana has updated its website to streamline communications and important notifications about COVID-19. Please visit <http://amerihealthcaritasla.com/covid-19> for up-to-date information for both providers and members, including frequently asked questions, and important provider alerts from AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana and the Louisiana Department of Health.