

Frequently Asked Questions: Hepatitis C Treatment Information for Providers

- **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

Although Project Hep Cure is only available to people with healthcare coverage through Missouri Medicaid (MO HealthNet), the hope is that providers will learn more about this simple treatment option and will offer it to all of their patients.

- **Who should be tested?**

The CDC recommends anyone age 18 or older get a one-time test for hepatitis C. You should especially consider testing patients who have any of the **risk factors** for the virus.

- **Am I authorized to prescribe treatment?**

Yes, as long as you are authorized to prescribe medication and an enrolled MO HealthNet provider.

- **No prior authorizations**
- **No provider restrictions**
- **No fibrosis restrictions**
- **No sobriety restrictions**

- **Do patients need prior authorization or documentation?**

No. Any patient who tests positive for hepatitis C is eligible for this treatment. Your healthcare provider will prescribe **MAVYRET®** and patients will fill the prescription at their local pharmacy like they would any other prescription.

- **What is MAVYRET®?**

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 percent effective in curing hepatitis C.

- **What are the side effects of MAVYRET®?**

The most common side effects of MAVYRET® are headache and tiredness. Although rare, there are also **other serious side effects** that could occur. You should monitor your patient throughout treatment and check for signs and symptoms of worsening liver problems. Patients with the following characteristics may be at risk for more serious side effects:

- Patients who have or have had hepatitis B (MAVYRET® can reactivate this virus)
- Anyone with liver problems aside from hepatitis C (these health conditions may put them at risk for developing more severe complications, like worsening liver function and even death)

- **Is MAVYRET® right for everyone?**

No. Patients who are pregnant, nursing, or plan to become pregnant should not take **MAVYRET®** since the effects on unborn children are unknown. In addition, anyone taking atazanavir or rifampin should not take MAVYRET®.

- **Is MAVYRET® only available to people with healthcare coverage through MO HealthNet?**

No. Anyone can get treatment for hepatitis C. To be eligible for **free** treatment through Project Hep Cure, the patient must have healthcare coverage through Missouri Medicaid (MO HealthNet).

- **Is there a stigma against hepatitis C?**

Unfortunately, yes. Much like HIV, hepatitis C is often associated with drug use and unprotected sexual contact. However, the truth is there are many ways people can become infected with hepatitis C, such as sharing personal hygiene products, dialysis, blood transfusions, or getting a piercing or tattoo with an infected needle.

- **How can I help reduce the stigma and dispel HCV stereotypes?**

You could stop using negative Hepatitis C stereotypes, like drug use and unsafe sexual practices, to help patients feel more comfortable with testing and a potential diagnosis. Truthfully there are many ways people can become infected with hepatitis C, such as sharing personal hygiene products, dialysis, blood transfusions, or getting a piercing or tattoo with an infected needle. Breaking the stigma associated with hepatitis C is important because ultimately the more people we test, the more people we treat, which will lead to more people being cured of this deadly virus.

- **How can I help raise awareness for hepatitis C and this project?**

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, we have developed provider resources and a toolkit for your use. The toolkit includes:

- Flyer for provider
- Flyer for participants
- Hepatitis C informational graphic
- Frequently Asked Questions for providers
- Frequently Asked Questions for participants

Visit dss.mo.gov/mhd/hepc to learn more about Project Hep Cure and hepatitis C in Missouri.