

PROJECT *Hep* CURE

PROVIDER TOOLKIT

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Dear MO HealthNet Provider:

MO HealthNet and pharmaceutical manufacturer AbbVie have launched a new initiative, called Project Hep Cure, to help cure hepatitis C by making prescription MAVYRET® available to anyone with healthcare coverage through MO HealthNet **at no cost**. This treatment will be available at no cost regardless of what type of MO HealthNet coverage a patient has.

MAVYRET® is simple to prescribe and is proven to cure hepatitis C 98 percent of the time. MAVYRET® requires:

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

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. Visit dss.mo.gov/mhd/hepc to learn more.

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 3 pills once a day for 8 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.

Interpretive services are available by calling the Participant Services Unit at 1-800-392-2161.
Prevodilačke usluge su dostupne pozivom odjela koji učestvuje u ovom servisu na broj 1-800-392-2161.
Servicios Interpretativos están disponibles llamando a la unidad de servicios de los participantes al 1-800-392-2161.

AUXILIARY AIDS AND SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST TO INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

TDD / TTY: 800-735-2966

RELAY MISSOURI: 711

Missouri Department of Social Services is an Equal Opportunity Employer/Program.

The most common side effects of MAVYRET® include headaches and tiredness. 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)

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®. For more information, visit mavyret.com.

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 1945-1965 (baby boomer) or 1981-1996 (millennial)
 - Has a history of injection drug use or exposure to unsterilized needles
 - Has liver disease
 - Has HIV/AIDS
 - Has received dialysis, *or*
 - Is pregnant (screen during each pregnancy)
- Routine periodic screenings should be completed based on on-going 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 can refer to [Show-Me ECHO](http://showmeecho.org) 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 showmeecho.org/clinics/hepatitis-c.

We also encourage you to eliminate 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.

We appreciate your support. Together we can help eliminate hepatitis C in Missouri.

Sincerely,

Josh Moore, PharmD
Director of Pharmacy
MO HealthNet Division
Department of Social Services

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.

Frequently Asked Questions: Hepatitis C Treatment Information for MO HealthNet Participants

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

- **What is hepatitis C?**

According to the CDC, **hepatitis C** is a liver infection caused by the hepatitis C virus (HCV). It spreads through contact with blood from someone with hepatitis C. It is possible to have hepatitis C and not experience symptoms. Once **symptoms** do appear, it often means there is advanced liver disease. Over half of those who have hepatitis C suffer long-term, life-threatening health problems like cirrhosis (liver scarring) and liver cancer.

- **How is hepatitis C spread?**

Common ways this virus can be spread include:

- Sharing personal hygiene products like your toothbrush, razors, and nail clippers
- Dialysis
- Blood transfusions
- Injection drug use
- Sexual contact
- Getting a piercing or tattoo with a needle that has not been properly cleaned

You cannot “catch” hepatitis C the way you can catch other viruses (like a cold, the flu, COVID, etc.). Hepatitis C can only be spread if you come in contact with the blood of someone who has hepatitis C.

- **How can I prevent hepatitis C?**

The best way to protect yourself is to not share personal hygiene products like your toothbrush, razors, nail trimmers, or anything else that could come into contact with your blood. You can also protect yourself by using condoms during sexual contact and only getting a tattoo or piercing from a licensed shop with safety measures in place.

MAVYRET® offers **more information** on the symptoms, spread, and prevention of hepatitis C.

- **What are the symptoms of hepatitis C?**

In most cases, there are no noticeable symptoms of hepatitis C. This means you can have the virus and not even know it. If you do feel symptoms, the most common are tiredness and depression. These symptoms could also be mistaken for other health issues, so hepatitis C can still go undiagnosed without testing.

- **Should I get tested?**

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

- **How do I get tested?**

Visit your MO HealthNet provider and ask to be screened and tested for hepatitis C. A hepatitis C test is a simple blood test that checks for the virus.

If you do not already have a doctor that accepts MO HealthNet coverage, you can search for one through your **health plan** or through the **MO HealthNet provider search**.

- **What happens if I test positive for hepatitis C?**

If you test positive for hepatitis C, ask your doctor if prescription **MAVYRET®** is right for you. If your doctor prescribes this treatment, you will simply need to take three pills once a day with food for the course of your treatment. MAVYRET® is proven to cure hepatitis C 98 percent of the time.

- **What is MAVYRET®?**

MAVYRET® is a prescription drug that stops the hepatitis C virus from multiplying, ultimately curing the virus. MAVYRET® is proven to cure hepatitis C 98 percent of the time.

- **Am I eligible for hepatitis C treatment?**

Anyone can get treatment for hepatitis C. To be eligible for **free** treatment through Project Hep Cure, you must have healthcare coverage through MO HealthNet (Missouri Medicaid). If you do not already have MO HealthNet coverage, you can **apply for help**.

- **Is there a cost?**

If you have MO HealthNet (Missouri Medicaid), testing and treatment for hepatitis C are available to you at **no cost**. If you do not have MO HealthNet coverage, you will need to discuss the costs with your doctor.

If you do not already have MO HealthNet coverage and you think you may be eligible, you can **apply for help**.

- **What if I do not have healthcare coverage through MO HealthNet?**

You do not have to have MO HealthNet to be treated for hepatitis C. Talk with your insurance company and your doctor to see what your options are. If you do not have health insurance, you can **apply for MO HealthNet**.

- **When will I know if I'm cured?**

You will be considered cured if no hepatitis C virus is found in your blood test three months after you finish MAVYRET®. MAVYRET® is proven to cure hepatitis C 98 percent of the time.

- **What is AbbVie?**

AbbVie is the pharmaceutical company that produces MAVYRET®.

- **How do I get my prescription?**

If your doctor prescribes you **MAVYRET®** you will fill the prescription at your local pharmacy.

- **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. Your doctor should monitor you throughout your treatment and check for signs and symptoms of worsening liver problems.

- **What should I tell my doctor before taking it MAVYRET®?**

Before taking **MAVYRET®** you should let your doctor know:

- About all medical conditions and your health history
- Any medications or supplements you take
- If you are pregnant, planning to become pregnant, or breastfeeding
- If you have any history of Hepatitis B or liver problems
- If you have had a liver or kidney transplant

Do not start taking a new medicine without telling your doctor. Your doctor can tell you if it is safe to take MAVYRET® with other medicines.

- **What is a Nurse Ambassador?**

Once you have a MAVYRET® prescription, you can connect with a **Nurse Ambassador** who can help you understand:

- Chronic hepatitis C
- The insurance process
- How to take MAVYRET®
- Specialty pharmacies

PROJECT Hep CURE

Eliminating hep C in Missouri 

Hepatitis C or *hep C*

is a blood-borne virus that causes liver inflammation

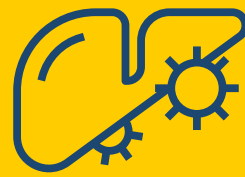
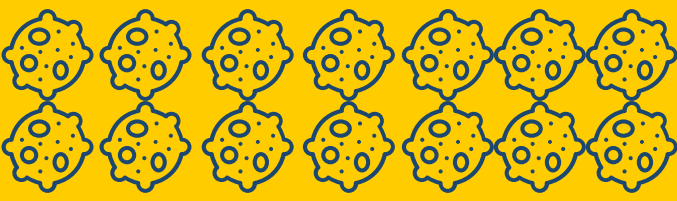
2.3 million

adults are infected with hep C

50% do not even know they are infected



The virus replicates **trillions** of copies of itself each day



These new copies attack liver cells, causing inflammation that can lead to severe liver damage and even **death**

Who is at **risk**?

- People born between 1945 - 1965 (baby boomer)
- People born between 1981-1996 (millennial)
- Anyone who gets dialysis
- People exposed to unsterilized needles (tattoos, piercings, injection drug use, etc.)
- Children born to women who have hepatitis C
- Anyone with liver disease

Who should be **tested**?

- Adults 18 and older
- People who have ever injected drugs* or shared needles/syringes
- Pregnant women (during each pregnancy)
- People with HIV
- People who have abnormal liver tests or liver disease

*Annual testing is recommended for current injection drug users

OR if any of the **risk** criteria applies to you

Curing hepatitis C is as easy as 1-2-3

1

Screen

- Visit your **MO HealthNet** provider and ask for a hepatitis C screening
- Your provider will determine if you need to be tested

2

Test

- A hepatitis C test is a simple blood test that checks for the virus
- The CDC recommends anyone 18+ get tested at least once

3

Treat

- If you test positive, ask your doctor if prescription **MAVYRET®** is right for you
- Treatment is **FREE** for anyone with MO HealthNet

PROJECT *Hep* CURE

What is Project Hep Cure?

Project Hep Cure is an initiative to cure hepatitis C with prescription **MAVYRET®**. Anyone who has healthcare coverage through MO HealthNet (Missouri Medicaid) and has tested positive for hepatitis C is eligible for treatment.

This treatment is available at no cost to MO HealthNet participants.

How do I get treated?

Follow these simple steps to see if treatment is right for you. If you have already been diagnosed with hepatitis C, ask your doctor about MAVYRET®.

SCREEN

- Schedule a visit with your MO HealthNet Provider to be screened for hepatitis C

TEST

- If needed, you will do a simple blood test to check for the hepatitis C virus
- The CDC recommends anyone 18+ be tested for hepatitis C at least once

TREAT

- If you test positive, ask your doctor if prescription MAVYRET® is right for you
- This treatment is proven to cure hepatitis C 98% of the time

LET'S CURE HEP C

Project Hep Cure is a unique opportunity to cure hepatitis C for **FREE** for patients with MO HealthNet!

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Anyone with MO HealthNet coverage and a positive hepatitis C diagnosis is eligible to get prescription MAVYRET® at **no cost**. There are:

- ✓ **NO PRIOR AUTHORIZATIONS**
- ✓ **NO FIBROSIS RESTRICTIONS**
- ✓ **NO SOBRIETY REQUIREMENTS**
- ✓ **NO PROVIDER RESTRICTIONS**

HOW CAN I HELP?



SCREEN

Screen MO HealthNet patients to assess their hepatitis C risk



TEST

Complete a blood test to check for the virus



TREAT

If your patient tests positive, consider prescribing MAVYRET®