

February 4, 2019

Re: Changes to Coverage for Hepatitis C Treatment Effective March 1, 2019

Dear Advanced Health Provider:

Effective March 1, 2019 the drug use criteria for DAA (direct acting antivirals) for treatment of chronic hepatitis C will be expanding to include coverage for all fibrosis stages, HIV testing will no longer be required (but is still highly recommended prior to treatment as positive result may impact treatment plan), and primary care providers may prescribe DAAs for their non-cirrhotic hepatitis C patients. Evaluation of drug and alcohol use is no longer required for coverage of hepatitis C treatment, but continues to be a covered benefit for all Advanced Health members.

We have been informed that some out of area gastroenterology and hepatology providers will continue to only accept referrals for patients with fibrosis staging F3-F4, or clinical complications of cirrhosis; therefore, asymptomatic non-cirrhotic patients with fibrosis staging F0-F2 may be treated locally by their PCP. If you have medically complex patients that you feel require specialist evaluation and treatment, please submit a referral and include documentation supporting clinical rationale for coverage.

As a GI/hepatology referral will no longer be required for evaluation and treatment of asymptomatic hepatitis C patients due to coverage of treatment prescribed by local providers, the 'readiness to refer checklist' has been retired and replaced with a new 'readiness to treat' checklist that summarizes the Fee for Service Hepatitis C Direct Acting Antivirals Drug Use Criteria that will be effective March 1, 2019 and is located on the Oregon Medicaid FFS Drug Class List at http://www.orpdl.org/durm/PA_Docs/HepatitisC_DAAs.pdf. All requested drug treatment regimens must be supported by the FFS 'Recommended Treatment Regimens for Chronic Hepatitis C' table.

Please ensure all components of the drug use criteria are submitted with the medication prior authorization request including pre-treatment lab testing and clinical chart notes. Please ensure all Advanced Health members seeking hepatitis C treatment are connected with our Advanced Health Hepatitis C Care Coordinator, Kristien. Kristien can be contacted at 541-266-6504 or emailed at kristien.vanelsberg@advancedhealth.com. Prescriptions for DAAs must be dispensed by our specialty pharmacy, US BioServices.

If you have any questions regarding this change, please contact Dr. Kent Sharman at kent.sharman@advancedhealth.com, Caryn Mickelson at caryn.mickelson@advancedhealth.com or (541) 269-4558, or Kristien Van Elsberg at (541) 266-6504 or kristien.vanelsberg@advancedhealth.com.

Thank you for your time and commitment serving our Advanced Health members!

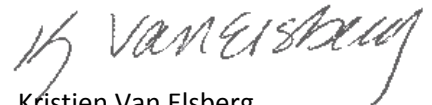
Sincerely,



Caryn Mickelson, PharmD
Director of Pharmacy Services



Kent Sharman, MD
Medical Director



Kristien Van Elsberg
Hep C Care Navigator