THIS MONTH'S FEATURED ARTICLES

See page 8
Updated Claims Processing and Payment Schedule 2020

See page 9
Changes to the Preferred Drug List (PDL)

See page 10
Calculating Safer Opioid Dosages

To Subscribe or update your email address, send an email to riproviderservices@dxcom or click the subscribe button above.

Please put “Subscribe” in the subject line of your email.

In addition to the Provider Update, you will also receive any updates that relate to the services you provide.
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Article</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Info Regarding Remittance Advice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Process to Request Nursing Home Level of Care (LOC)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attention DME Providers</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Automated Process to Extend Home Care Prior Auth’s</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attending Provider Requirement</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) Update</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naloxone Policy</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pharmacy Claim Edit for Unit of Use/Package Size</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019 Medicaid Enrollment Fee</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Updated Claims Processing and Payment Schedule 2020</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information re: PASSR for Nursing Home &amp; Hospice Providers</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pharmacy Spotlight—Meeting Dates</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Changes to the Preferred Drug List (PDL)</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pain Management</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calculating Total Daily Dose of Opioids for Safer Dosage</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provider Revalidation is Around the Corner</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Update from Rhode Island Quality Institute</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information re: Rate Increases</td>
<td>13-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provider Electronic Solutions (PES) Passwords Overview</td>
<td>15-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RIDOH Encourages Hep C Testing</td>
<td>18-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RI Medicaid Annual Plan Change Opportunity</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For quick access to an article, click on the title.

RI Medicaid Customer Service Help Desk for Providers
Available Monday—Friday 8:00 AM-5:00 PM
(401) 784-8100 for local and long distance calls
(800) 964-6211 for in-state toll calls

RI Medicaid Annual Plan Change Opportunity
Info Regarding Remittance Advice

*Just a reminder.....*
As a reminder, remittance advice (RA) documents are accessed through the Healthcare Portal. The most recent four RA documents are available for download.

Providers must download and save or print these documents in a timely manner to ensure access to the information needed. When a new RA becomes available, the oldest document is removed, and providers are unable to access it. The Payment and Processing calendar lists the dates of the RA for your convenience.

RI Medicaid does not provide printed copies of RA documents. Please see the financial schedule [here](#).

Process to Request Nursing Home Level of Care (LOC)

**LOC packets** must be sent to DHS along with the Medical Assistance application to the LTSS UNIT, P.O. Box 8709, Cranston, RI 02920. The information will be scanned into the eligibility system, RI Bridges, and will generate a “task” to the Office of Medical Review (OMR) RN to conduct a LOC review. If additional information is needed, the OMR RN will request that information from the nursing facility. Only then should information be sent directly to the OMR (via fax - (401) 462-3496). Sending documents to the OMR (unless specifically requested), as opposed to the LTSS Unit PO Box, may cause delays in the application process and will be returned to the facility.

The Nursing Home Level of Care medical packet consists of the following:
- GW-OMR-PM 1 - Provider Medical Statement
- AP-70.1 - RI DHS Social Worker’s Evaluation for Care in a Nursing or Intermediate Care Facility
- MA/PAS-I – RI DHS Level I Identification for MI and DD, ID Screen
- Any other information to support a level of care.

Please remember to sign and date forms and include any attachments referenced. Please note that ICD codes cannot be substituted for diagnosis on provider medicals.

**PASRR - Level I Screen**
It is mandatory for a nursing facility that receives federal dollars, regardless of a patient’s insurance, to conduct a Level I PASRR screening either before or on the day of admission. This document must be signed and dated. Please review the ID Screen to ensure that all information is accurate. Please note that if a PASRR has not been submitted, the nursing facility will not be eligible for payment (due to PASRR Non-Compliance) and cannot bill the client or their family for those dates of service. In those instances, please contact BHDDH for a Resident Review. Payment will be allowed from the date the Resident Review is scheduled. If the ID screen indicates a 30-day exemption, and the client’s stay is over 30 days, a Resident Review will be required and should be requested directly from BHDDH.
ATTENTION DME PROVIDERS:

As of 6/1/19 there is a revised Certificate of Medical Necessity (CMN) for General DME items and instructions for completing the form. Both can be found on the www.eohhs.ri.gov website under Forms and Applications. Please note that the CMN is valid for 12 months from the date of issue. After 12 months from the date of issue, a new CMN is required.

Updates for other item specific CMNs will be forthcoming. Please continue to check your Provider Update each month.

Additionally, effective 6/1/19, there are new guidelines for Proof of Delivery located in the DME Provider Manual which include items that are delivered directly by a provider or via a shipping service.

As of 7/1/19 EOHHS has updated the Oxygen Therapy guidelines and the Certificate of Medical Necessity (CMN) for Oxygen.

Please discard any old versions and use the revised CMN going forward. The revised Oxygen Therapy guidelines are found under the Coverage Guidelines for Durable Medical Equipment. The revised CMN can be found on the www.eohhs.ri.gov website under Forms and Applications.

Attention RI Medicaid Home Care Providers:

There will be an automated process to extend home care prior authorizations (PAs) for those members with existing PAs and have current eligibility in one of the following waivers:

—Core Community Services  —Preventative Services
—Habilitation Community Services  —DEA Waiver

Prior Authorizations for both DEA and DHS cases that are scheduled to end in thirty (30) days will be automatically extended for twelve (12) months from the end date of the member’s most current PA.

Prior Authorizations will not be automatically extended if a member has experienced a change in eligibility from one waiver to another after the PA was initially added. For example, if the member had an active Preventive Services waiver at the time the initial PA was added, and then the member’s waiver eligibility was changed to Core Community Services between the time the PA was entered and the time it is due to expire. Because this is a different waiver than what it was when the PA was initially added, this PA will not be auto-extended.

Prior Authorizations for members who have been enrolled into Nursing Homes, Shared Living Facilities, Assisted Living and Managed Care (Rite Care/Integrity/Pace) will not be auto-extended. Recipients who are now deceased will have their existing PAs ended to the member’s date of death minus 1 day.
Attending Provider Requirement

Hospice, Inpatient, Nursing Home, Outpatient, Professional and Home Health

The Rhode Island Medicaid program would like to remind providers that the Attending Provider field on claims is a required field. Any attending provider listed on a claim must be enrolled/registered with RI Medicaid.

Hospice, Inpatient, Nursing Home, Outpatient, Professional and Home Health providers are required to submit with an attending provider on all claims.

RI Medicaid has begun editing claims for attending provider information as of December 1, 2018.

On/after this date, claims submitted without an attending provider or with a provider not enrolled/registered with RI Medicaid will deny.

Manual (paper) claims and claims submitted using the Provider Electronic Solutions software (PES) are required to have the provider NPI and taxonomy. In PES, the Attending Provider information is entered under “Lists > Other Provider” (see figure on right).

Please be sure to select the correct “Provider ID Code Qualifier” of “XX” (note: using any other code qualifier will cause your claim to deny). Please also be sure to enter the correct NPI number in the Provider ID box in addition to the correct Taxonomy Code (see figure below).

Complete claim form instructions for placement of the attending provider information can be found here on the EOHHS website. Attending provider loop and segment information for non-PES X12 transactions can be found here under “Claim Forms and Instructions.”

If you have questions, please contact customer service at 401-784-8100 and for in-state toll calls, 800-964-6211.
Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) Update

ATTENTION TRADING PARTNERS:
There is a plan to update our current Sybase Translator to the OXi SaaS translator in the Fall of 2019. The teams working on this project expect a seamless transition for providers. No action is required on your part at this time but stay tuned for future updates.

ATTENTION CLEARINGHOUSES:
Future code modifications will impact automated script users. We require users who submit claims automatically to please email riediservices@dxc.com and identify yourselves as automated script users. These users will then be contacted for testing purposes at a later date. Please note that automated script users who fail to identify themselves as such may experience errors after the OXi SaaS transition occurs.

ATTENTION PROVIDER ELECTRONIC SOLUTION (PES) USERS:
All users should be using PES 2.10. See upgrade instructions here. PES users should be aware that a new version of PES will be available in the Fall of 2019.

NEW: Naloxone Rx Policy

Effective 1/28/2019, providers can dispense naloxone injection or inhaler from a physician’s office without the need for the recipient to go to the pharmacy to pick up the drug. The prescribing/dispensing physician will submit the claim for the ingredient cost of the drug including the NDC.

In order to receive reimbursement, providers will bill using J2310 (Injection, nalaxone HCl, per 1mg) along with the appropriate package NDC. For additional guidance on J Code/NDC billing please refer to Medicaid’s CMS 1500 instructions on the EOHHHS website.

Note: Evisio™ is not covered.
Pharmacy Claim Edit for Unit of Use/Package Size

This edit has been activated in Production effective May 1, 2019. It has been fully validated to be working as intended.

EOHHS introduced in May a Pharmacy Claim Edit for Unit of Use/Package Size to ensure pharmacy providers are billing pharmacy claims with an accurate metric quantity based on the unit of use package size. The edit impacts Medicaid Fee For Service, ADAP and RIPAE. If a point of service (POS) pharmacy claim is submitted with metric units that are not an exact match or multiple of the NDC’s package size, the claim will deny with the following message “Units billed for NDC do not conform to package size”. Examples of products are single units of use such as inhalers, eye drops and single use packaged items.

Examples:
- PremPro, The package unit size is 1 and contains 28 tablets. If a pharmacy billed for 30 units, the claim would deny. The claim should be submitted with a metric quantity of 28.
- ProAir HFA, The metric package unit size is an 8.50 gram inhaler. If a pharmacy dispensed two inhalers and billed 18 grams, the claim would deny. The claim for two inhalers should be billed as 17 grams.

If you have questions, please contact customer service at 401-784-8100 and for in-state toll calls, 800-964-6211.

FYI:
The application fee to enroll as a Medicaid provider is $586.00 as of January 1, 2019.

See more information regarding providers who may be subject to application fees here.
Updated: Claims Processing and Payment Schedule

See information regarding when claims are due and when EFT payments will be made from July 2019 to July 2020.

Click here to view 2020 Financial Calendar!

Information re: PASSR for Nursing Home and Hospice Providers

In order for nursing home claims and hospice room and board claims to pay, a Pre-Admission Screening and Resident Review (PASRR) must be completed.

This is an evaluation process that is mandated by the Nursing Home Reform Act under the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1987. A Level I PASRR is required for all applicants to Medicaid certified nursing facilities, regardless of the payor. A Level II Evaluation and Determination must be completed prior to admission if a serious mental illness and/or intellectual disability or related condition is identified through the Level I screening. This requirement excludes Eleanor Slater Hospital, The Tavares Pediatric Center and RICLASS facilities.

In late June 2019 RI Bridges will begin to send an indicator of “Y” (for yes) to indicate that this screening has been completed or “N” (for no) to indicate the screening has not been completed. This indicator will be viewable on the eligibility page on the Health Care Portal. If the PASRR is set to “N” for the dates of service being submitted on the claim, the claim will go into suspense and be denied if the PASSR is not updated to a Y for the dates of service on the claim.

DXC will be working with EOHHS to add the PASSR indicator of Y to all previously approved recipients. Claims processing will begin to utilize this indicator for all claims submitted after June 24, 2019.

The PASSR indicator will be available for viewing in the Health Care Portal after June 27, 2019.
Pharmacy Spotlight

Meeting Schedule:
Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee
Drug Utilization Review Board

The next meeting of the Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee (P&T) is scheduled for:
Date: September 10, 2019
Registration: 7:30 AM
Meeting: 8:00 AM
Location: DXC Technology
301 Metro Center Blvd., Suite 203
Warwick, RI 02886
Click here for agenda

The next meeting of the Drug Utilization Review (DUR) Board is scheduled for:
Date: September 10, 2019
Meeting: 10:30 AM
Location: DXC Technology
301 Metro Center Blvd., Suite 203
Warwick, RI 02886
Click here for agenda

2019 Meeting Dates:
April 9, 2019
June 4, 2019
September 10, 2019
December 17, 2019

The following drugs will change status on the RI Medicaid Fee-for-Service Preferred Drug List (PDL) effective July 2019.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drug Class</th>
<th>Change Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Epinephrine, Self-Injected</td>
<td>epinephrine 0.3mg Auto Injector changed status to non-preferred</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glucocorticoids, Inhaled</td>
<td>Pulmicort Flexhaler changed status to preferred</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glucocorticoids, Oral</td>
<td>cortisone changed status to non-preferred</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antimigraine Agents, Other</td>
<td>Emgality pen changed status to preferred</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antimigraine Agents, Triptans</td>
<td>Emgality syringe changed status to preferred</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antibiotics, GI</td>
<td>Firvanq changed status to preferred</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antibiotics, Vaginal</td>
<td>vancomycin capsule changed status to non-preferred</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antivirals, Oral</td>
<td>oseltamivir capsules changed status to preferred</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ulcerative Colitis Agents</td>
<td>Lialda changed status to preferred</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To view the entire Preferred Drug List please check the Rhode Island EOHHS Website at: http://www.eohhs.ri.gov/ProvidersPartners/GeneralInformation/ProviderDirectories/Pharmacy.aspx
Pharmacy Update—Pain Management

The Department of Health continues to receive questions about the requirement of ICD-10 codes for controlled substance prescriptions. Below are questions and answers regarding ICD-10 codes on controlled substance prescriptions. Also below, is a link to more FAQs about Pain Management on the Department of Health website.

Documenting International Classification of Diseases (ICD) 10 Diagnosis Code(s) on Controlled Substance Prescriptions

1. **Why is the documentation of ICD-10 diagnosis codes on all controlled substances prescriptions required?**

   The requirement for prescribers to provide a diagnosis code on a patient’s prescription allows pharmacists to understand why the controlled substance is being dispensed. Pharmacists are able to use this information to have follow-up conversations with prescribers and patients to ensure that patients are being treated with the appropriate medication. This is a requirement for all clinicians with a Controlled Substance Registrations (CSR), including dentists, physicians, physician assistants (PAs), Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs), optometrists, midwives, podiatrists, and veterinarians. The ICD-10 code(s) must be entered in a visible location on the prescription.

2. **Where can dentists and other clinicians who typically do not work with ICD-10 codes find the appropriate diagnosis code?**

   The most common dental ICD-10 codes are:
   - K01: impacted teeth
   - K04: pulpal and periapical diseases
   - K05: periodontal diseases
   - K08: loss of teeth (This code could be used for implant placement or another pre-prosthetic surgery.)

   For dentists, it is sufficient to document the three-character code—the category code—when documenting a diagnosis on a prescription. For example, the three-character code of K01 supplies sufficient information to indicate a diagnosis of **Embedded and Impacted Teeth**. To find a more specific diagnosis code, prescribers can visit the World Health Organization’s (WHO) comprehensive list of ICD-10 codes.

3. **If the prescriber cannot find an appropriate ICD-10 code or if the prescriber’s profession does not typically use ICD-10 codes, how should the patient’s diagnosis be indicated on the prescription?**

   In these specific cases, the patient’s diagnosis should be written legibly in a visible location on the face of the prescription.

4. **Does the ICD-10 code have to be documented in the medical record, too?**

   RIDOH does not require a prescriber to record an ICD-10 code in the patient’s medical record.

5. **If a prescriber omits the ICD-10 code, can pharmacists take verbal orders from the prescriber for the code, or does a new prescription need to be issued?**

   A verbal order from the prescriber can be obtained to fulfill the requirement for the ICD-10 code. Dentists and veterinarians do not use ICD 10 codes and may write the diagnosis on the prescription in place of the ICD 10 code.

   [Link to Frequently Asked Questions about Pain Management](http://health.ri.gov/publications/frequentlyaskedquestions/PainMgmtRegs.pdf)
Calculating Total Daily Dose of Opioids for Safer Dosage Developed by the CDC:


Provider Revalidation is Around the Corner!

What’s Changed?

Have you moved, engaged a new billing service or had another change in the information on file with RI Medicaid? We want to know!

To report a change of pay to, mail to or service location address please complete the Provider Change of Information Form found here on the EOHHS website and submit per the instructions at the bottom of the form.

This same form may also be used to report a change in ownership, changes to certifications, notification of adverse action to license and notice of bankruptcy filing.

With the first wave of provider revalidation happening this fall, it’s crucial that RI Medicaid have the most current information on file for providers.

If you have questions, please contact the Customer Service Help Desk at 401-784-8100 or 800-964-6211 for instate toll calls.
Sometimes filling out forms is as fun as, well, filling out forms. So we tried to shake it up a little with this ‘How to Enroll in CurrentCare’ animated video to explain the particulars – and have a little fun.
Skilled Home Care Rate Increases

EOHHS has implemented 2 rate increases for skilled home health care services. One increase is for dates of service 7/1/18 through 9/30/18 and an additional rate increase for dates of service 10/1/18 ongoing. Please begin billing at the new rates immediately.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Procedure Code</th>
<th>Modifier</th>
<th>7/1/18</th>
<th>10/1/18</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Home Health Aide</td>
<td>G0156</td>
<td></td>
<td>$5.72</td>
<td>$6.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RN, PT, OT and ST per visit</td>
<td>X0043</td>
<td></td>
<td>$80.62</td>
<td>$104.80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The mass adjustment was completed and is reflected on remittance advice dated 3/15/2019.

Hospice Rate Increases

EOHHS is implementing a rate increase for hospice services. Please see the below hospice rate increases that are effective for dates of service 7/1/18 ongoing.

There are 2 rate increases for procedure code G0299. The rate for G0299 for dates of service 7/1/18 through 9/30/18 is $12.22 and then an additional increase to $13.00 per unit which is effective as of 10/1/18.

Please begin billing with these rates in order to be reimbursed at the higher rates.

The mass adjustment was completed and is reflected on remittance advice dated 3/29/2019.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Procedure Code</th>
<th>7/1/18</th>
<th>10/1/18</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Home care by clinical social worker in home health or hospice setting - Continuous Care</td>
<td>G0155</td>
<td>$12.22</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct Skilled Nursing services of a registered nurse in the home health or hospice setting - continuous care</td>
<td>G0299</td>
<td>$12.22</td>
<td>$13.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Routine Home Care: 1 - 60 days</td>
<td>T2042</td>
<td>$231.64</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Routine Home Care: &gt;60 days</td>
<td>T2042</td>
<td>$181.93</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuous Home Care Per Hour</td>
<td>T2043</td>
<td>$48.84</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inpatient Respite Per Day</td>
<td>T2044</td>
<td>$218.24</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Inpatient Care</td>
<td>T2045</td>
<td>$892.26</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospice Long Term Care, Room and Board Only; Per Diem</td>
<td>T2046</td>
<td>114.0% of RUG</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Assisted Living Rate Increases

EOHHS has implemented a rate increase for all assisted living residents. This includes residents on RI Housing waiver, DEA waiver, and former Unity members now in fee of service. The rate is increasing from $42.16 per day to $69.00 per day effective 10/1/2018. Providers can begin to use the new rate immediately.

Previously processed claims that reimbursed at the old rate will be mass adjusted by DXC Technology. This mass adjustment will occur during the 4/5/19 financial and be reported on your 4/12/19 Remittance Advice.

However, there are some individual cases that may need to be adjusted outside of that window and through a manual adjustment process. If your facility is one effected by these cases you will receive additional communication.

Adult Day Care Rate Increases

EOHHS has implemented a rate increase for all adult day care recipients. This is for Medicaid recipients only.

Effective October 1, 2018, the rates were increased as follows:

Medicaid

- Basic half day/S5102 - $29.00
- Basic full day/S5102 U2 - $58.00
- Enhanced half day/S5102 U1 - $39.00
- Enhanced full day/S5102 U1 U2 - $78.00

Providers can begin to use the new rate immediately.

Previously processed claims that reimbursed at the old rate will be mass adjusted by DXC Technology in late April or early May.

Pediatric and Adult Home Care Rate Increases

EOHHS has instituted rate increases for home care services retro to 7/1/2018. Please begin billing with these rates in order to be reimbursed at the higher rates.

Pediatric rate increases were mass adjusted and reflected on remittance advice dated 3/15/2019.

Adult Home Care Services will be mass adjusted and they will be reflected on remittance advice dated 4/12/2019.
Provider Electronic Solutions Passwords Overview

In times, when you don’t know the password to access the PES software, the Provider Rep Team can provide you with a temporary password. This is done when we use a reset password tool. This tool allows us to reset your password using a reset key. The reset key is created by you, once you have attempted to enter your known password too many times.

In the first picture below, you can see where the password was entered incorrectly.

As a result of the incorrect password, you will get prompted with this second picture, which demonstrates entering the incorrect answer to the security question stored and saved in the PES software.
Both of the pictures on the previous page are a result of entering the incorrect password and answer when prompted in the software.

The third screenshot is what you’ll receive after entering an invalid password and answering incorrectly to the security question. But, have selected yes to the question “Do you want to reset password”?

Once you receive the temporary password from the RI Medicaid Help Desk, you must enter it, as the old password and then change your password taking the followings steps:

Select Tools (along the top bar).
Select Change Password. After completing the steps above, the screen below appears.

They will need to enter the temporary password in the field “old password”, enter the new password in the next field “new password”. Select “OK”.

A reminder - the password just created to access the software does not need to be in sync with the Health Care Portal. But, it does expire every 90 days.
The above password to access the software has nothing to do with the password that is stored and saved in the software shown below. However, the password below in the Web Password field does need to be in sync with the Health Care Portal password (screen shots below) for successful submissions; this password will also expire every 90 days.

Health Care Portal Screenshots

Site Key: 🍎
Passphrase: baseball
*Password: 
Sign In
Forgot Password?
The Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) is launching a campaign encouraging Hepatitis C (HCV) testing for Baby Boomers (people born between 1945-1965). Baby Boomers are five times more likely to have Hepatitis C than other adults. Ads will appear on television, radio, social media, and newspapers during the months of May-July encouraging Rhode Islanders in this age group to get tested for HCV.

In addition to Baby Boomers, people for whom testing is extremely important include anyone who:

- Has HIV infection
- Was born to a woman with hepatitis C
- Currently injects drugs
- Has ever injected drugs, including anyone who injected drugs once or a few times many years ago
- Has a history of intranasal (through the nose, or snorting) drug use, including those who snorted only once many years ago. An example is snorting cocaine.
- Received clotting factor concentrates produced before 1987
- Has ever had long-term hemodialysis
- Has persistently elevated liver blood tests -- elevated alanine aminotransferase (ALT) levels
- Has been notified they received blood from a donor who later tested Positive for HCV infection; or
- Received a blood transfusion, blood components, or an organ transplant before July 1992.
Recent advances in medications that can cure HCV have made HCV elimination a viable goal for Rhode Island. In 2018, the state's Executive Office of Health and Human Services announced that Medicaid will cover HCV medication for all Rhode Island Medicaid beneficiaries living with the disease. Previously, only medication for Medicaid recipients in advanced stages of HCV were covered.

Providers are encouraged to review the guidance below related to Medicaid coverage for all stages of disease. These guidelines document eligible beneficiaries, who may prescribe covered medications and the information which must be submitted in order to obtain a coverage determination. Additions to the list of FDA approved medications will require individual review.

Detailed prescribing and drug warning information may be obtained at [http://www.fda.gov/Drugs/DrugSafety/ucm522932.htm](http://www.fda.gov/Drugs/DrugSafety/ucm522932.htm)

Modifications to these guidelines will be issued as needed. Prior authorization is required.

**General Approval Criteria:**

**Prescribers:**

Patients with Stage 3 and Stage 4 disease must be managed by a provider on the Rhode Island Medicaid Hepatitis C Preferred Provider List who either assumes direct responsibility for care or who after consultation and establishing a treatment plan co-manages the patient with the primary care provider. Patients with documented Stage 0, 1 or 2 disease may be managed by the primary care physician, advanced practice nurse or physician assistant as described below.

**Beneficiaries:**

All patients with documented Chronic Hepatitis C Stages 0 through 4 are eligible for treatment.
Required Documentation:

The following must be included in the pre-authorization request:
- Stage of disease and test used to determine disease stage.
- Presence or absence of decompensated cirrhosis. Patients with decompensated liver disease must be referred to a physician with experience in managing such disease – ideally at a center with liver transplant capabilities.
- Hepatitis C genotype, quantitative viral load and date of testing. Date of testing must be within 90 days of request.
- History of prior Hepatitis C treatment if relevant.
- Treatment plan which includes:
  - Medication name, dose and duration.
  - Agreement to submit post treatment viral load data if requested.

Approval:

- Approval will be for a full course of treatment with medication being dispensed in 28-day increments. Evidence of non-compliance may result in cancellation of approved medication refills.
- Approval will be valid for 56-84 days from date of approval.
- Health plan Medical Directors will be responsible for monitoring in plan processes to insure compliance with this policy. Documentation must be provided to Rhode Island Medicaid upon request.
- Any request for a non-FDA approved treatment will be denied.

Treatment recommendations as of July 1, 2018:

- Preferred agents: Mavyret™ or Vosevi®.
- Non-preferred agents: All other agents, with the exception of ribavirin;
- Will be approved if a patient is completing a cycle of therapy which was initiated prior to current policy implementation, or
- Requests for non-preferred medications will be reviewed on a case by case basis. The PA request must include supporting, detailed clinical documentation of need for an alternative, non-preferred agent.

Continuity of Treatment:

- When transitioning between publicly funded delivery systems (e.g. between Fee for Service Medicaid and Managed Care Medicaid, between Managed Care Medicaid and Fee for Service Medicaid or between the Department of Corrections and the Medicaid program), Any authorization granted by the prior delivery system will be honored for the portion of the treatment that remains after the transition.
RI Medicaid Annual Plan Change Opportunity

RI Medicaid is holding an Annual Plan Change Opportunity from September 3, 2019 through October 31, 2019 for currently enrolled members of Rite Care, Rhody Health Partners and Medicaid Expansion. Letters will be mailed to beneficiaries announcing the option to change health plans starting in late August.

Letters will be mailed to members in 5 mailing waves beginning the last week of August and continuing through October. Members will have until October 31st to request a change in health plan. It is important for members to know:

- All health plans offer the same benefits and are all highly rated Medicaid plans.
- If they want to change plans, they should check to be sure that their family’s doctors are in the plan and that the plan covers their medications. Members should call the health plan or go to the plan’s website for more information.
- All Rite Care members must choose the same health plan for all family members. Members in Rhody Health Partners and Medicaid Expansion may select their own health plan.

If a member is happy with their current plan, they do not have to do anything. No change will be made. If a member would like to change plans, they can contact HealthSource RI at 1-855-840-4774 to request the change, or complete the form enclosed with the letter and mail back to RI Medicaid.

Members who lose their form, or do not receive a letter, may download one from the EOHHS website at http://www.eo.hhs.ri.gov/Home/PlanChange.aspx

It may take up to 8 weeks for the change to be effective. Members will receive a welcome packet from the new health plan, as well as a new ID card.

Providers are reminded to ask members to show their health plan identification cards prior to delivering services. This will prevent billing the wrong health plan and delays in payment. Members will be able to select from three health plans for their Medicaid coverage:

1-401-459-6020 or 1-800-459-6019 nhpri.org

1-866-738-4116 www.ritogather.com

1-800-587-5187 UHCCommunityPlan.com