



MISSOURI

1. Plan Development

Missouri has created an HCV elimination plan that will be in effect from 2022-2026, and it has been made available to the public. The plan does not contain information about whether people with lived/living experience were involved in its development, and the state has not committed to publishing progress reports for its plan on an annual basis. The state should take steps to integrate strategies to address HAV and HBV into its plan in accordance with CDC PS21-2103.

2. Harm Reduction Laws

Syringe Services Program Legality, Syringe Exchange Specifications, Medical Emergency Laws, and “Works” Possession Laws and Syringe Exemption

SSPs have not been legalized in the state, but there are Good Samaritan protections in effect. Improved harm reduction policies that include allowing SSPs to be established will aid state efforts to engage with key populations most susceptible to viral hepatitis transmission.

3. Budget Allocation

Specific Funds Allocated for Plan Implementation, State Budget, and State Corrections Budget

Viral hepatitis is not mentioned in Missouri’s FY23 general budget, and there is no mention of viral hepatitis in the proposed FY24 budget either. It is only briefly mentioned in the FY23 corrections budget request, but not the final budget. A designated line item for hepatitis would signal a commitment to providing resources to support ongoing efforts to improve statewide viral hepatitis outcomes.

4. Improving Viral Hepatitis Prevention, Treatment, and Outcomes

Educational and Perinatal Information for the Public, Provider Training, and Medicaid Expansion

Missouri is a Medicaid expansion state; it distributes viral hepatitis educational information and materials on its state’s Department of Public Health website and through Project Hepatitis Cure, and it provides perinatal information / education for HBV and HCV. Information is distributed in English and Spanish. The Viral Hepatitis and Fatty Liver ECHO empowers and supports primary care providers and offers opportunities for training and learning.

Standard of Care for HCV in State Corrections

A publicly available, separate, state-drafted guidance for the standard of care for HCV in state corrections that includes strategies to offer DAA treatment for HCV to all persons with a confirmed HCV diagnosis held in state corrections in accordance with the AASLD/IDSA treatment guidelines does not exist in Missouri. There has been litigation within the jurisdiction that has prompted changes to be made regarding hepatitis screening and treatment within correctional facilities. In *Postawko v. Missouri Dep't of Corr.*, No. 2:16-cv-04219-NKL, 2017 WL 1968317, at *7 (W.D. Mo. May 11, 2017), the court ruled that a “wait and see” policy of relying solely on fibrosis scores and delaying DAA treatment until the disease has progressed to a far more serious level “contravenes the applicable medical standard of care without any medical justification.”

Targeted Interventions for Key Populations and the Provision of Linguistically Diverse Informational Materials

There are state-supported targeted interventions available for key populations across Missouri, some of which are included in the state’s viral hepatitis elimination plan. Additionally, near the end of 2021, Missouri HealthNet launched Project Hepatitis Cure to eliminate hepatitis C in Missouri’s Medicaid population.

Enduring Coalition / Task Force to Coordinate and Leverage Resources

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Service, Viral Hepatitis Prevention Program’s (VHPP) along with the Bureau of HIV, STD, and Hepatitis (BHSH), is a Coalition whose focus is to educate and collaborate with providers, local public health agencies (LPHAs), substance use disorder treatment centers, and community-based organizations to increase efforts related to testing, treatment, and care of people that are most at risk for hepatitis C.

Hepatitis C: State of Medicaid Access Grade

Missouri has maintained its A+ Hepatitis C: State of Medicaid Access grade.

5. Improving Viral Hepatitis Surveillance and Data Usage

Epidemiological Report / Profile, and Public-Facing Website with Viral Hepatitis Data

Missouri has made a marked improvement in its data surveillance and reporting. It has now published a comprehensive epidemiological report covering 2021 HBV and HCV data and has made this data available on the state’s public-facing website.