Aetna Gives Priority to Hepatitis C Drugs Sovaldi and Harvoni

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Aetna, the third-largest U.S. health insurer, has negotiated a deal with Gilead Sciences to prioritize its new hepatitis C virus (HCV) treatments, Reuters reports.

According to an updated coverage policy on the pharmacy benefits manager's site, Aetna has secured a "competitive" price for 12-week hep C treatments Sovaldi (sofosbuvir) and Harvoni (ledipasvir/sofosbuvir), which cost up to $86,000 and $94,000, respectively, at full market prices.

Like other companies currently negotiating HCV treatment discounts, Aetna has refused to detail the size of the break it received from Gilead. However, analysts are saying deals in the price war are likely to be around 30 percent off.

Aetna joins CVS Health, Anthem and Humana in choosing Gilead's new drugs for its insurance formularies. Express Scripts, the country's largest pharmacy benefits manager (PBM), has given priority to AbbVie's new Viekira Pak regimen. PBM Prime Therapeutics has kept both Gilead's and AbbVie's drugs on its list.

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