



# My insurance denied hepatitis C treatment because I tested positive for marijuana use. Is this legal?

December 11, 2018 By [Lucinda K. Porter RN](#)

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This practice is unjust and inhumane but unfortunately, it may be legal. Additionally, there is no scientific basis for withholding hepatitis C treatment from people who use any kind of drugs. For instance, [a recent study](#) published in the Lancet found that people with recent drug use (including those who inject) had high response rates to current hepatitis C treatments. Experts who developed the [HCV Guidelines](#) state that active or recent drug use is not a contraindication to HCV treatment.

Some insurance plans [in some states](#) are better than others. You always have the right to appeal. If you live in a state that has legalized medical use of marijuana and you can provide a prescription, you can appeal on these grounds.

If your insurance company still denies treatment, contact the National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable and report this. Additionally, call Help4Hep and ask them for assistance: 877 Help4Hep (877-435-7443). You may also get some tips and support at [Hep's Forums](#).

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<http://beta.docker.hepmag.com/article/insurance-denied-hepatitis-c-treatment-tested-positive-marijuana-use-legal>