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

December 11, 2018 By Lucinda K. Porter RN

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