

MANAGED CARE SYSTEMS  
 P.O. Box 64982, St. Paul, MN 55164-0882  
 Telephone: 651-201-5100  
 Email: [health.managedcare@state.mn.us](mailto:health.managedcare@state.mn.us)

## Request for Waiver

Plan Year: 2024

Please ensure that information contained on this waiver request coincides with information provided on the geographical access maps and provider list submitted with this application.

1. Name and Title of Person Submitting this Document:

Carrier	Name Network	Network ID	Reason Code 4: Network Structure*
HealthPartners, Inc.	Cornerstone	MNN016	<select one>
Name	Title	Date	Reason Code 4: Enrollees in Network*
Martin Michael	Sr Director Provider Relations & Network Management	5/9/2023	

2. By submitting this form, the above-referenced confirms:

- A. That person submitting this request has personal knowledge of the network contracting process involved in this submission; and
- B. That access cannot be met for the following provider type(s). Include the county and reason(s) for not meeting the requirements.

Provider Type	County	Reason Code	Notes	Affected Enrollees*	Percent Not Covered*
Allergy, Immunology and Rheumatology	Cottonwood, Jackson, Murray, Nobles	1	<p>These counties are primarily rural and have small populations. Due to the smaller community size, the hospitals and clinics in these areas don't have the technology or equipment to handle complex procedures or specialized services. Patients have to travel to providers in the larger metropolitan areas where specialty providers work in large facilities where the technology and equipment needed for complex cases are available.</p> <p>There is a limited number of Allergy, Immunology and Rheumatology providers in the state; the metropolitan areas of St. Paul/Minneapolis, St. Cloud, Duluth, Moorhead/Fargo/Grand Forks or Sioux Falls, SD, have services available through large care systems and consultations are also available through telemedicine. There are no additional Allergy, Immunology and Rheumatology providers available in these counties.</p> <p>HealthPartners communicates routinely with providers through our newsletter every other month with reminders to keep information regarding their locations and providers up to date. Member complaints regarding access to care are monitored on a monthly basis. If trends in complaints regarding access to a particular type of provider are identified, the contracting department is notified and when new providers are identified, a contract is pursued.</p> <p>ENROLLEE ACCESS TO SERVICES IN 2024:                      Referral to metropolitan area clinics and facilities: Complex cardiac surgery services are performed at larger metropolitan care system hospitals and locations. HealthPartners' contracted providers refer their patients to metropolitan area providers who have access to large hospital facilities that provide cardiac surgery services.</p> <p>Provider clinics or outreach locations                      Avera Health, Carris Health, Essentia Health, Sanford Health, MRHC and Olivia Hospitals and Clinics have satellite locations or provide outreach services at other locations in the region. In addition, telemedicine is an option for office visits, including consultations and post-operative visits.</p> <p>Network Reviews: We reviewed our networks in March, May, and August.</p> <p>Sources used to check for new providers/locations                      • Healthgrades                      • Medicare Physician Compare <a href="https://www.medicare.gov/hospitalcompare/">https://www.medicare.gov/hospitalcompare/</a></p>		
Cardiac Surgery	Chippewa, Cottonwood, Jackson, Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, Yellow Medicine	1	<p>These counties are primarily rural and have small populations. Due to the smaller community size, the hospitals and clinics in these areas don't have the technology or equipment to handle complex procedures or specialized services. Patients have to travel to providers in the larger metropolitan areas where specialty providers work in large facilities where the technology and equipment needed for complex cases are available.</p> <p>There is a limited number of Cardiac Surgery providers in the state; the metropolitan areas of St. Paul/Minneapolis, St. Cloud, Duluth, Moorhead/Fargo/Grand Forks or Sioux Falls, SD, have services available through large care systems and consultations are also available through telemedicine. There are no additional Cardiac Surgery providers available in these counties.</p> <p>HealthPartners communicates routinely with providers through our newsletter every other month with reminders to keep information regarding their locations and providers up to date. Member complaints regarding access to care are monitored on a monthly basis. If trends in complaints regarding access to a particular type of provider are identified, the contracting department is notified and when new providers are identified, a contract is pursued.</p> <p>ENROLLEE ACCESS TO SERVICES IN 2024:                      Referral to metropolitan area clinics and facilities: Complex cardiac surgery services are performed at larger metropolitan care system hospitals and locations. HealthPartners' contracted providers refer their patients to metropolitan area providers who have access to large hospital facilities that provide cardiac surgery services.</p> <p>Provider clinics or outreach locations                      Avera Health, Carris Health, Essentia Health, Sanford Health, MRHC and Olivia Hospitals and Clinics have satellite locations or provide outreach services at other locations in the region. In addition, telemedicine is an option for office visits, including consultations and post-operative visits.</p>		

<p><b>Colon and Rectal Surgery</b></p>	<p><i>Chippewa, Cottonwood, Jackson, Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, Noble, Yellow Medicine</i></p>	<p>1</p>	<p>These counties are primarily rural and have small populations. Due to the smaller community size, the hospitals and clinics in these areas don't have the technology or equipment to handle complex procedures or specialized services. Patients have to travel to providers in the larger metropolitan areas where specialty providers work in large facilities where the technology and equipment needed for complex cases are available. There is a limited number of Colon and Rectal Surgery providers in the state; the metropolitan areas of St. Paul/Minneapolis, St. Cloud, Duluth, Moorhead/Fargo/Grand Forks or Sioux Falls, SD, have services available through large care systems and consultations are also available through telemedicine. There are no additional Colon and Rectal Surgery providers available in these counties.</p> <p>ENROLLEE ACCESS TO SERVICES IN 2024: Referral to metropolitan area clinics and facilities Complex Colon and Rectal Surgery services are performed at larger metropolitan care system hospitals and locations. HealthPartners' contracted providers refer their patients to metropolitan area providers who have access to large hospital facilities that provide colon and rectal surgery services. Provider clinics or outreach locations Avera Health, Carris Health, Essentia Health, Sanford Health, MRHC and Olivia Hospitals and Clinics have satellite locations or provide outreach services at other locations in the region. In addition, telemedicine is an option for office visits, including consultations and post-operative visits. Network Reviews: We reviewed our networks in March, May, and August. Sources used to check for new providers/locations  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Healthgrades</li> <li>• Medicare Physician Compare <a href="https://www.medicare.gov/hospitalcompare/">https://www.medicare.gov/hospitalcompare/</a></li> <li>• Minnesota Health Care Programs Provider Directory <a href="http://mhcpproviderdirectory.dhs.state.mn.us/">http://mhcpproviderdirectory.dhs.state.mn.us/</a></li> <li>• National Institute of Health US National Library of Medicine MedlinePlus Directories</li> </ul> New providers identified: No additional providers were identified.</p>		
<p><b>Endocrinology</b></p>	<p><i>Jackson</i></p>	<p>1</p>	<p>Counties that make up the southern part of Minnesota are almost exclusively prairie land and farms, with some rolling hills. The area is mainly rural with small communities throughout. HealthPartners contracts with all known providers in this area, so members have access to the closest available providers.</p> <p>HealthPartners also supports the use of telemedicine in these areas where no providers are physically present.</p> <p>ENROLLEE ACCESS TO SERVICES IN 2024: Provider clinics or outreach locations For office visits, consultations (including pre and post-op visits) or telemedicine visits, large care systems in the area include Avera Health, Carris Health, Essentia Health, Sanford Health, MRHC and Olivia Hospitals and Clinics. In addition to the large care system's own locations, they often provide outreach services at smaller provider groups in the area.</p> <p>Network Review We reviewed our networks in March, May, and August.</p> <p>Sources used to check for new providers/locations  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Healthgrades</li> <li>• Medicare Physician Compare</li> <li>• Minnesota Health Care Programs Provider Directory</li> <li>• National Institute of Health US National Library of Medicine MedlinePlus Directories</li> </ul> </p>		
<p><b>Gastroenterology</b></p>	<p><i>Jackson, Nobles</i></p>	<p>1</p>	<p>Counties that make up the southern part of Minnesota are almost exclusively prairie land and farms, with some rolling hills. The area is mainly rural with small communities throughout. HealthPartners contracts with all known providers in this area, so members have access to the closest available providers.</p> <p>HealthPartners also supports the use of telemedicine in these areas where no providers are physically present.</p> <p>ENROLLEE ACCESS TO SERVICES IN 2024: Provider clinics or outreach locations For office visits, consultations (including pre and post-op visits) or telemedicine visits, large care systems in the area include Avera Health, Carris Health, Essentia Health, Sanford Health, MRHC and Olivia Hospitals and Clinics. In addition to the large care system's own locations, they often provide outreach services at smaller provider groups in the area.</p> <p>Network Review We reviewed our networks in March, May, and August.</p> <p>Sources used to check for new providers/locations  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Healthgrades</li> <li>• Medicare Physician Compare</li> <li>• Minnesota Health Care Programs Provider Directory</li> <li>• National Institute of Health US National Library of Medicine MedlinePlus Directories</li> </ul> </p>		
<p><b>Pediatric Specialty Providers</b></p>	<p><i>Chippewa, Cottonwood, Jackson, Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, Nobles, Rock, Pipestone, Yellow Medicine</i></p>	<p>1</p>	<p>Counties that make up the southern part of Minnesota are almost exclusively prairie land and farms, with some rolling hills. The area is mainly rural with small communities throughout. HealthPartners contracts with all known providers in this area, so members have access to the closest available providers.</p> <p>HealthPartners also supports the use of telemedicine in these areas where no providers are physically present.</p> <p>ENROLLEE ACCESS TO SERVICES IN 2024: Provider clinics or outreach locations For office visits, consultations (including pre and post-op visits) or telemedicine visits, large care systems in the area include Avera Health, Carris Health, Essentia Health, Sanford Health, MRHC and Olivia Hospitals and Clinics. In addition to the large care system's own locations, they often provide outreach services at smaller provider groups in the area.</p> <p>Network Review We reviewed our networks in March, May, and August. Sources used to check for new providers/locations  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Healthgrades</li> <li>• Medicare Physician Compare</li> <li>• Minnesota Health Care Programs Provider Directory</li> <li>• National Institute of Health US National Library of Medicine MedlinePlus Directories</li> </ul> New providers identified: No additional providers were identified.</p>		

<p><b>Reconstructive Surgery</b></p>	<p><i>Cottonwood, Jackson, Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, Nobles, Yellow Medicine</i></p>	<p>1</p>	<p>These counties are primarily rural and have small populations. Due to the smaller community size, the hospitals and clinics in these areas don't have the technology or equipment to handle complex procedures or specialized services. Patients have to travel to providers in the larger metropolitan areas where specialty providers work in large facilities where the technology and equipment needed for complex cases are available.</p> <p>There is a limited number of Reconstructive Surgery providers in the state; the metropolitan areas of St. Paul/Minneapolis, St. Cloud, Duluth, Moorhead/Fargo/Grand Forks or Sioux Falls, SD. have services available through large care systems and consultations are also available through telemedicine.</p> <p>HealthPartners communicates routinely with providers through our newsletter every other month with reminders to keep information regarding their locations and providers up to date. Member complaints regarding access to care are monitored on a monthly basis. If trends in complaints regarding access to a particular type of provider are identified, the contracting department is notified and when new providers are identified, a contract is pursued.</p> <p>ENROLLEE ACCESS TO SERVICES IN 2024: Referral to metropolitan area clinics and facilities Complex Reconstructive Surgery services are performed at larger metropolitan care system hospitals and locations. HealthPartners' contracted providers refer their patients to metropolitan area providers who have access to large hospital facilities that provide Reconstructive surgery services.</p> <p>Provider clinics or outreach locations Avera Health, Carris Health, Essentia Health, Sanford Health, MRHC and Olivia Hospitals and Clinics have satellite locations or provide outreach services at other locations in the region. In addition, telemedicine is an option for office visits, including consultations and post-operative visits.</p> <p>Network Review</p>		
<p><b>SUD (Chemical Dependency) - Inpatient</b></p>	<p><i>Chippewa, Jackson, Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, Nobles, Yellow Medicine</i></p>	<p>1</p>	<p>Counties that make up the southern part of Minnesota are almost exclusively prairie land and farms, with some rolling hills. The area is mainly rural with small communities throughout. HealthPartners contracts with all known providers in this area, so members have access to the closest available providers. HealthPartners also supports the use of telemedicine in these areas where no providers are physically present.</p> <p>ENROLLEE ACCESS TO SERVICES IN 2024: Provider clinics or outreach locations For inpatient services, including hospital-based and substance use disorder services, there are large care systems and independent providers who are available to members. Large care systems in the area, who generally have their own hospitals and treatment facilities, include Avera Health, Carris Health, Essentia Health, Sanford Health, MRHC and Olivia Hospitals and Clinics.</p> <p>Network Review We reviewed our networks in March, May, and August. Sources used to check for new providers/locations • Healthgrades • Medicare Physician Compare • Minnesota Health Care Programs Provider Directory • National Institute of Health US National Library of Medicine MedlinePlus Directories New providers identified: No additional providers were identified.</p>		
<p><b>Thoracic Surgery</b></p>	<p><i>Chippewa, Cottonwood, Jackson, Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, Yellow Medicine</i></p>	<p>1</p>	<p>These counties are primarily rural and have small populations. Due to the smaller community size, the hospitals and clinics in these areas don't have the technology or equipment to handle complex procedures or specialized services. Patients have to travel to providers in the larger metropolitan areas where specialty providers work in large facilities where the technology and equipment needed for complex cases are available.</p> <p>There is a limited number of Thoracic Surgery providers in the state; the metropolitan areas of St. Paul/Minneapolis, St. Cloud, Duluth, Moorhead/Fargo/Grand Forks or Sioux Falls, SD. have services available through large care systems and consultations are also available through telemedicine.</p> <p>HealthPartners communicates routinely with providers through our newsletter every other month with reminders to keep information regarding their locations and providers up to date. Member complaints regarding access to care are monitored on a monthly basis. If trends in complaints regarding access to a particular type of provider are identified, the contracting department is notified and when new providers are identified, a contract is pursued.</p> <p>ENROLLEE ACCESS TO SERVICES IN 2024: Referral to metropolitan area clinics and facilities Thoracic Surgery services are performed at larger metropolitan care system hospitals and locations. HealthPartners' contracted providers refer their patients to metropolitan area providers who have access to large hospital facilities that provide Reconstructive surgery services.</p> <p>Provider clinics or outreach locations Avera Health, Carris Health, Essentia Health, Sanford Health, MRHC and Olivia Hospitals and Clinics have satellite locations or provide outreach services at other locations in the region. In addition, telemedicine is an option for office visits, including consultations and post-operative visits.</p> <p>Network Review We reviewed our networks in March, May, and August. Sources used to check for new providers/locations • Healthgrades • Medicare Physician Compare</p>		
<p><b>Vascular Surgery</b></p>	<p><i>Chippewa, Cottonwood, Jackson, Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, Nobles, Yellow Medicine</i></p>	<p>1</p>	<p>These counties are primarily rural and have small populations. Due to the smaller community size, the hospitals and clinics in these areas don't have the technology or equipment to handle complex procedures or specialized services. Patients have to travel to providers in the larger metropolitan areas where specialty providers work in large facilities where the technology and equipment needed for complex cases are available.</p> <p>There is a limited number of Vascular Surgery providers in the state; the metropolitan areas of St. Paul/Minneapolis, St. Cloud, Duluth, Moorhead/Fargo/Grand Forks or Sioux Falls, SD. have services available through large care systems and consultations are also available through telemedicine.</p> <p>HealthPartners communicates routinely with providers through our newsletter every other month with reminders to keep information regarding their locations and providers up to date. Member complaints regarding access to care are monitored on a monthly basis. If trends in complaints regarding access to a particular type of provider are identified, the contracting department is notified and when new providers are identified, a contract is pursued.</p> <p>ENROLLEE ACCESS TO SERVICES IN 2023: Referral to metropolitan area clinics and facilities Vascular Surgery services are performed at larger metropolitan care system hospitals and locations. HealthPartners' contracted providers refer their patients to metropolitan area providers who have access to large hospital facilities that provide Reconstructive surgery services.</p> <p>Provider clinics or outreach locations Avera Health, Carris Health, Essentia Health, Sanford Health, MRHC and Olivia Hospitals and Clinics have satellite locations or provide outreach services at other locations in the region. In addition, telemedicine is an option for office visits, including consultations and post-operative visits.</p>		

Please use additional sheet if needed

**Only for Reason Code 4, Network Structure, Enrollees in Network, Affected Enrollees, and Percent Not Covered only needed if reason code is 4 and provider type is Primary Care, Pediatric Services Providers (Primary Care), General Hospital and Mental Health.**

As part of this waiver request for all reason codes, a carrier must demonstrate with specific data that the geographic access standards cannot be met in a particular service area or part of a service area and also state what steps were and will be taken to address the network inadequacy (MN Statutes § 62K.10, subdivision 5).

**Reason Codes:**

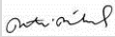
1. Carrier has conducted a good faith search for providers and determined that there are no providers physically present in the service area of the type requested in the waiver. MDH will not grant a waiver for this reason code unless the carrier demonstrates, with specific information, that there are no providers physically present in the part(s) of the service area for which the waiver is sought. Specific information may include provider directories and sources consulted, physical geography that affects the location of providers, or other information that affects the availability and location of providers. Telemedicine may be used as a means to provide access when there are no providers physically present to meet the standard. The carrier should describe how it will assess the availability of providers who begin practice in the service area where the standard cannot currently be met. State what steps will be taken to address the network inadequacy.
2. Provider does not meet carrier's credentialing requirements. Carrier must cite the reason(s) provider does not meet carrier's credentialing requirements. State what steps were and will be taken to address the network inadequacy.
3. Carrier has made a good faith effort to contract with provider and provider has refused to accept a contract. State what steps were and will be taken to address the network inadequacy.
4. For all Reason Code 4, you must state the following information:
  - a. Specify the network structure: ACO or Narrow Network. (In Section 1 above.)
  - b. State the total number of estimated enrollees in the network as of the submission date of waiver. (In section 1 above.)
  - c. State why the geographic access standards cannot be met. Explain why full geographic access is not possible with this network design.
  - d. State how access will be provided for this provider type for the enrollees of the affected county.

Additionally, for Reason Code 4, only for **Primary Care, Pediatric Services Providers [Primary Care], General Hospital and Mental Health provider types**, you must select only one county per line. See the Provider Network Adequacy Instruction for further direction. If the carrier would like to request a waiver for an additional county for the same provider type, they will need to add an additional line to allow for the specific additional information to be provided. For these same 4 provider types, the carrier must also complete the following fields:

- e. State the total number of estimated enrollees affected in the county not meeting the geographic standard as of the submission date of waiver.
- f. State the estimated percentage of area in that county that is not covered.

**Attestation for the Request for Waiver**

The undersigned attests that he/she is a representative of the carrier with personal knowledge of the network and reasons for the above waiver requests, and that the waiver requests meet the requirements for the waiver, as outlined above. The undersigned also attests that good faith efforts have been made to locate and contract with providers, as outlined above, and that if providers become available in the service area, carrier will make a good faith effort to contract with said providers.



5/9/2023

Name, Company, Title

Date Attestation Signed