



*Protecting, maintaining and improving the health of all Minnesotans*

August 26, 2013

Administrator  
Health Plan Name  
Address  
City, State, Zip Code

Dear Health Plan Administrator,

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) is reviewing contracts between the Minnesota Rural Health Cooperative (MRHC) and health plans according to the state oversight and supervision role established in [Minnesota Statutes, Section 62R.09](#). In reviewing contracts, MDH is required to consider certain issues:

- Whether the arrangement is likely to produce significant efficiencies that benefit consumers, such as cost savings or improvements in quality of or access to care;
- If the arrangement is likely to have any anticompetitive effects on the marketplace; and
- Whether the potential anticompetitive effects outweigh the pro-competitive efficiencies resulting from the arrangement.

In order to evaluate these issues MDH is currently collecting aggregate health plan utilization and payment information for physician clinics and hospitals operating in the same geographic area.

We ask that you visit the MDH following website to obtain a data collection file:  
<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/hpsc/hep/providers/index.html>.

This file provides instructions on the following: the data elements to report, the health care providers for which to report data, and the granularity to report the information. The website also contains directions on how to submit the required information in a secure way to MDH. All data collected under this request will be considered nonpublic data defined in Minnesota Statutes, Section 13.02. This information must be provided to MDH **no later than September 16, 2013**.

If you have any questions about this data request, the health provider cooperative review process, please contact Nathan Hierlmaier at (651) 201-3541 or by email at [nathan.hierlmaier@state.mn.us](mailto:nathan.hierlmaier@state.mn.us). You may also contact the Director of the Health Economics Program, Stefan Gildemeister, at (651) 201-3554 or by email at [stefan.gildemeister@state.mn.us](mailto:stefan.gildemeister@state.mn.us).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Diane Rydrych".

Diane Rydrych  
Division Director, Health Policy  
PO Box 64882  
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