

Request for Waiver

Plan Year: 2018

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
Blue Plus	Blue Plus Western Minnesota Network	MNN004
Name	Title	Date
Patricia Coates	Network Innovation Consultant	10/2/2017

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
<i>General Hospital facilities</i>	<i>Beltrami, Marshall</i>	1	
<i>General Hospital facilities</i>	<i>Becker, Beltrami, Cass, Hubbard, Marshall</i>	4	This network has an exclusive contract with a set of providers which prevents Blue Cross from adding competing providers. A waiver is requested due to a competing facility in the area. Our networks include every facility located in Cass, Beltrami and Marshall counties. Each of these counties have in-network facilities for members to access care. For very small areas of Marshall and Beltrami counties, the nearest in-network facility may be in the adjacent county. In the event of a medical emergency, additional in-network coverage may be available, subject to the terms of the member's benefits.
<i>Primary Care providers</i>	<i>Beltrami, Marshall</i>	1	
<i>Primary Care providers</i>	<i>Beltrami, Cass, Marshall</i>	4	This network has an exclusive contract with a set of providers which prevents Blue Cross from adding competing providers. A waiver is requested due to a competing specialty provider found in the area. There are clinics available in the county for the member to seek care. Only a small portion of Marshall and Beltrami counties do not meet adequacy. Depending on the member's location the nearest in-network provider may be in Pennington or Clearwater county.
<i>Mental health providers</i>	<i>Beltrami, Marshall</i>	1	
<i>Mental health providers</i>	<i>Beltrami, Marshall</i>	4	This network has an exclusive contract with a set of providers which prevents Blue Cross from adding competing providers. A waiver is requested due to a competing mental health provider found in the area. There are clinics available in the county for the member to seek in-network care.
<i>Pediatric Services Providers</i>	<i>Beltrami, Marshall, Cass, Big Stone, Traverse</i>	1	
<i>Pediatric Services Providers</i>	<i>Beltrami, Marshall, Renville, Lac Qui Parle</i>	4	This network has an exclusive contract with a set of providers which prevents Blue Cross from adding competing providers. A waiver is requested due to a competing specialty provider found in the area. There are clinics available in the county for the member to seek in-network care.

<i>Pediatric Specialty Providers</i>	<i>Big Stone,Beltrami,Traverse</i>	1	
<i>Pediatric Specialty Providers</i>	Cass	4	This network has an exclusive contract with a set of providers which prevents Blue Cross from adding competing providers. A waiver is requested due to a competing specialty provider found in the area. This county does not have any Specialists that meet the Specialists criteria for adequacy with any of our networks. In-network care is accessed from adjacent county providers. Members can access the in-network specialists in either Beltrami or Douglas counties.
<i>Anesthesiology Physicians and Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists</i>	<i>Traverse,Beltrami</i>	4	This network has an exclusive contract with a set of providers which prevents Blue Cross from adding competing providers. A waiver is requested due to a competing specialty provider found in the area. Only a 1 to 5 mile section of this county does not meet adequacy. Many times, the facilities in this county have Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists that travel to the facilities that are in-network.
<i>Cardiac Surgery</i>	Cass,Beltrami	4	This network has an exclusive contract with a set of providers which prevents Blue Cross from adding competing providers. A waiver is requested due to a competing specialty provider found in the area. This county does not have any Specialists that meet the Specialists criteria for adequacy with any of our networks; however, this network does have many in network physicians in Beltrami, Becker or Douglas counties for members to access in-network care.
<i>Cardiovascular Disease</i>	Cass	4	This network has an exclusive contract with a set of providers which prevents Blue Cross from adding competing providers. A waiver is requested due to a competing specialty provider found in the area. This network does have many in network physicians in Beltrami, Becker or Douglas counties for members to access care.
<i>Dermatology</i>	Jackson,Nobles,Beltrami	4	This network has an exclusive contract with a set of providers which prevents Blue Cross from adding competing providers. A waiver is requested due to a competing specialty provider found in the area. There are clinics available in the Beltrami county for the member to seek care. This county has a 1-5 mile section that does not meet adequacy. For Nobles and Jackson counties there are other in-network providers that can be accessed in Lyon county or Minnehaha counties.
<i>Endocrinology</i>	Big Stone,Cass,Marshall	1	
<i>Thoracic Surgery</i>	,Marshall,Beltrami,Pennington,Polk,Becker,Otter Tail,Wadena,Douglas,Wilkin,Traverse,Big Stone,Stevens,Pope,Swift,Lac Qui Parle,Chippewa,Kandiyohi,Renville, Yellow Medicine,Grant	1	
<i>Thoracic Surgery</i>	Cass,Marshall,Pennington,Red Lake,Kandiyohi,Renville,Douglas,Swift	4	This network has an exclusive contract with a set of providers which prevents Blue Cross from adding competing providers. A waiver is requested due to a competing specialty provider found in the area. Members have in-network access to care in Fargo, Thief River Falls and Sioux Falls locations due to the limited number of Thoracic Specialists in the State of Minnesota.
<i>Gastroenterology</i>	Hubbard,Becker,Otter Tail,Wadena,Douglas,Grant,Cass	4	This network has an exclusive contract with a set of providers which prevents Blue Cross from adding competing providers. A waiver is requested due to a competing specialty provider found in the area. In-network care can be accessed in Clay, Beltrami or Big Stone counties.
<i>Genetics</i>	Marshall,Red Lake,Pennington,Polk,Beltrami,Becker,Otter Tail,Wadena,Grant,Douglas,Wilkin,Traverse,Big Stone,Stevens,Pope,Swift,Lac Qui Parle,Chippewa,Kandiyohi,Renville, Yellow Medicine, Lincoln, Lyon, Redwood, Murray, Clearwater, Hubbard, Cass, Mahanomen, Cottonwood, Renville	1	

<i>Genetics</i>	<i>Cottonwood, Jackson, Nobles, Murry, Redwood, Renville, Kandiyohi, Pope, Douglas, Swift, Cass</i>	<i>4</i>	This network has an exclusive contract with a set of providers which prevents Blue Cross from adding competing providers. A waiver is requested due to a competing specialty provider found in the area. Members have in-network access to care in the Fargo and Sioux Falls areas due to the limited number of Genetics Specialists in the State of Minnesota.
<i>Chemical Dependency Inpatient</i>	<i>, Marshall, Beltrami, Pennington, Big Stone</i>	<i>1</i>	

Please use additional sheet if needed

Reason Codes:

1. Carrier has conducted a good faith search for providers and there are no providers physically present in the service area.*
Also use this code if an area of the state is not covered due to the topographic nature of the area such as lakes or forest.
2. Provider(s) do not meet carrier's credentialing requirements. Please explain what credentials are not met.
3. Carrier has made a good faith effort to contract with provider(s) and provider(s) have refused. Please provide information indicating the date in which a contract was offered and the process used in an effort to secure a contract.
4. Other: Please describe why geographic access standards cannot be met. Please also describe how access will be provided for this provider type for the residents of the affected county or counties.

C. That if new providers listed in (B) becomes available in the service area, carrier will make a good faith effort to contract with said providers.

*In some situations when the geographic access standards for a given provider type cannot be met, access to the specified provider type may be provided via the use of Telehealth, or Telemedicine technologies. When this is applicable for a provider type with regard to limited or no access in a particular county, the carrier should describe how access is being offered via the use of Telehealth technologies.

Provider Type	County	Reason Code	Notes
<i>Neurology and Neurological Surgery</i>	<i>Beltrami, Cass, Traverse</i>	4	This network has an exclusive contract with a set of providers which prevents Blue Cross from adding competing providers. A waiver is requested due to a competing specialty provider found in the area. This county does not have any Specialists that meet the Specialists criteria for adequacy with any of our networks. In-network care is accessed from adjacent counties. Members can access in-network care in either Beltrami, Becker or Douglas counties.
<i>Otolaryngology</i>	<i>Marshall, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake, Cass</i>	4	This network has an exclusive contract with a set of providers which prevents Blue Cross from adding competing providers. A waiver is requested due to a competing specialty provider found in the area. Members can access the in-network specialists in either Beltrami, Becker or Clay counties.
<i>Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and Occupational Medicine</i>	<i>Cass, Traverse</i>	4	This network has an exclusive contract with a set of providers which prevents Blue Cross from adding competing providers. A waiver is requested due to a competing specialty provider found in the area. Cass County does not have any Specialists that meet the Specialists criteria for adequacy with any of our networks. In-network care is accessed from adjacent counties. Members can access the in-network specialists in either Beltrami, Wadena or Todd counties. Traverse County does not have any Specialists that meet the Specialists criteria for adequacy with any of our networks. In-network care is accessed from adjacent counties. The area not meeting access is approximately 5 miles of the county. These members can access in-network care in either Douglas, Pope, Otter Tail or Swift counties.
<i>Pulmonary Disease</i>	<i>Beltrami, Cass, Hubbard, Clearwater, Marshall</i>	4	This network has an exclusive contract with a set of providers which prevents Blue Cross from adding competing providers. A waiver is requested due to a competing specialty provider found in the area. Neither Cass nor Beltrami counties have any Specialists that meet the Specialists criteria for adequacy with any of our networks. In-network care is accessed from adjacent counties. In-network care can be accessed in Polk, Becker or Wadena counties
<i>Reconstructive Surgery</i>	<i>Marshall, Pennington, Red Lake, Polk, Cass</i>	4	This network has an exclusive contract with a set of providers which prevents Blue Cross from adding competing providers. A waiver is requested due to a competing specialty provider found in the area. Members have access to in-network care in Beltrami or Cass County (ND). Cass County (MN) does not have any Specialists that meet the Specialist criteria for adequacy with any of our networks. In-network care is accessed from adjacent counties. Members have access to the in-network specialists in either Beltrami or Otter Tail counties.
<i>Vascular Surgery</i>	<i>Cass, Beltrami</i>	4	This network has an exclusive contract with a set of providers which prevents Blue Cross from adding competing providers. A waiver is requested due to a competing specialty provider found in the area. Beltrami County does have a specialist accessible in this county. Cass County does not have any Specialists that meet the Specialists criteria for adequacy with any of our networks; however, this network does have many in network physicians in Beltrami, Becker or Douglas counties for members to access in-network care.
<i>Colon and Rectal Surgery</i>	<i>Marshall, Beltrami, Pennington, Red Lake, Polk, Clearwater, Mahnomen, Becker, Otter Tail, Grant, Wilkin, Douglas, Big Stone, Traverse, Stevens, Nobles, Jackson, Hubbard, Wadena, Lac Qui Parle</i>	1	
<i>Colon and Rectal Surgery</i>	<i>, Cass, Jackson, Nobles</i>	4	This network has an exclusive contract with a set of providers which prevents Blue Cross from adding competing providers. A waiver is requested due to a competing specialty provider found in the area. Members have in-network access to care in Clay, Kandiohi, Lyon, Redwood or Minnehaha counties due to the limited number of Colon & Rectal Specialists in the State of Minnesota.