

Itasca Medical Care

TRIENNIAL COMPLIANCE ASSESSMENT 2021

Triennial Compliance Assessment

Performed under Interagency Agreement for Minnesota Department of Human Services

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Examiners: Elaine Johnson, RN, BS, CPHQ; Tom Major, MA, MDiv

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Minnesota Department of Health Managed Care Systems Section PO Box 64882 St. Paul, MN 55164-0882 651-201-5100 health.mcs@state.mn.us www.health.state.mn.us

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Triennial Compliance Assessment

Executive Summary

Federal statutes require the Department of Human Services (DHS) to conduct on-site assessments of each contracted Managed Care Organization (MCO) to ensure they meet minimum contractual standards. Beginning in calendar year 2007, during the Minnesota Department of Health's (MDH's) managed care licensing examination (MDH QA Examination) MDH began collecting (on-behalf of DHS) on-site supplemental compliance information. This information is needed to meet the federal Balanced Budget Act's external quality review regulations and is used by the External Quality Review Organization (EQRO) along with information from other sources to generate a detailed annual technical report (ATR). The ATR is an evaluation of MCO compliance with federal and state quality, timeliness, and access to care requirements. The integration of the MDH QA Examination findings along with supplemental information collected by MDH (triennial compliance assessment- TCA) meets the DHS federal requirement.

TCA Process Overview

DHS and MDH collaborated to redesign the TCA processes, simplifying timelines and corrective action plan submissions, and adding a step to confirm MCO compliance with corrective action plans. The basic operational steps remain the same; however, when a TCA corrective action plan is needed, the MCO will submit the TCA Corrective Action Plan to MDH following the MDH corrective action plan submission timelines. When the final QA Examination Report is published, the report will include the final TCA Report. Although the attachment of the final TCA Report to the QA Examination Report is a minor enhancement, this will facilitate greater public transparency and simplify finding information on state managed care compliance activities. Below is an overview of the TCA process steps:

- The first step in the process is the collection and validation of the compliance information by MDH. MDH's desk review and onsite QA Examination includes the collection and validation of information on supplemental federal and public program compliance requirements. To facilitate this process the MCO is asked to provide documents as requested by MDH.
- DHS evaluates information collected by MDH to determine if the MCO has "met" or "not met" contract requirements. The MCO will be provided a Final TCA Report to review DHS' initial "met/not met" determinations. At this point, the MCO has an opportunity

to refute erroneous information, but may not submit new or additional documentation. Ample time and opportunities are allowed during the QA Examination to submit documents, policies and procedures, or other information to demonstrate compliance. The MCO must refute erroneous TCA finding within 30 days. TCA challenges will be sent by the MCO to MDH. MDH will forward the MCO's TCA rebuttal comments to DHS for consideration.

- Before making a final determination on "not-met" compliance issues, DHS will consider TCA rebuttal comments by the MCO. DHS will then prepare a final TCA Report that will be sent to MDH and attached to the final QA Examination Report. As a result of attaching the final TCA Report to the QA Examination Report, greater public transparency will be achieved by not separating compliance information and requiring interested stakeholder to query two state agencies for managed care compliance information.
- The MCO will submit to MDH a corrective action plan (CAP) to correct not-met determinations. The MCO TCA CAP must be submitted to MDH within 30 days. If the MCO fails to submit a CAP, and/or address contractual obligation compliance issues, then financial penalties will be assessed.
- Follow-up on the MCO TCA CAP activities to address not-met issues by MDH. During the on-site MDH Mid-cycle QA Exam, MDH will follow-up on TCA not-met issues to ensure the MCO has corrected all issues addressed in the TCA Corrective Action Plan. CAP follow-up findings will be submitted to DHS for review and appropriate action will be initiated by DHS if needed.

I. QI Program Structure - 2020 Contract Section 7.1.1 (1-2)^{1,2}

The MCO must incorporate into its quality assessment and improvement program the standards as described in 42 CFR 438, Subpart D (access, structure and operations, and measurement and improvement).

TCA Quality Program Structure Data Grid

DHS Contractual Element and References	Met or Not Met	Audit Comments
Written Quality Assurance Plan (Quality Program Description) Access Standards 42 CFR § 438.206 Availability of Services 42 CFR § 438.207 Assurances of Adequate Capacity and Services 42 CFR § 438.208 Coordination and Continuity of Care 42 CFR § 438.210 Coverage and Authorization of Services	Met	MDH reviewed IMCare's 2020 and 2021 Quality Program Description during the exam period and they were found to have met all the criteria of Minnesota Rules, 4685.110, subparts 1 through 13 as well as the standards as described in 42 CFR 438, Subpart D were subsequently approved.
Structure and Operations Standards 42 CFR § 438.214 Provider Selection 42 CFR § 438.218 Enrollee Information 42 CFR § 438.224 Confidentiality and Accuracy of Enrollee Records 42 CFR § 438.226 Enrollment and Disenrollment	Met	

¹ Families and Children MA, Seniors (MSHO/MSC+), and Special Needs Basic Care (SNBC) Contract Section 7.1 and sub-sections; MSHO/MSC+ Contract Section 7.1 also includes the requirement that the MCO must comply with requirements of "Quality Framework," for EW services, including those found in the CMS "Modifications to Quality Measures and Reporting in 1915(c) Home and Community-Based Waivers" published in March 2014

² Note: DHS understands the impact of the outbreak on health plan reporting and accreditation efforts and therefore asks the MDH auditors to take that into consideration when performing TCA audits which cover the time impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak. DHS is implementing the exception for March 1-September1, 2020 timeframe

DHS Contractual Element and References	Met or Not Met	Audit Comments
42 CFR § 438.228 Grievance Systems 42 CFR § 438.230 sub contractual Relationships and Delegation		
Measurement Improvement Standards 42 CFR § 438.236 Practice Guidelines 42 CFR § 438.240 Quality Assessment and Performance Improvement Program 42 CFR § 438.242 Health Information System	Met	

II. Information System – 2020 Contract Section 7.1.3^{3,4}

The MCO must operate an information system that supports initial and ongoing operations and quality assessment and performance improvement programs.

Information System Data Grid

DHS Contractual Element and References	Met or Not Met	Audit Comments
The MCO must maintain a health information system that collects, analyzes, integrates, and reports data. During each of the past three years, all MCO MDH annual HEDIS performance measures have been certified reportable by an NCQA HEDIS audit.		2018 HEDIS Compliance Audit - Metastar 2019 HEDIS Compliance Audit - Metastar 2020 HEDIS Compliance Audit - Metastar Final audit report states: In our opinion, Itasca Medical Care submitted measures were prepared according to the HEDIS Technical Specifications and presents fairly, in all material respects, the organization's performance with respect to these specifications

³ Families and Children, Seniors and SNBC Contract Section 7.1.3

^{4 42} CFR 438.242; SSA 1904(r)(1)

III. Utilization Management - 2020 Contract Section 7.1.4^{5,6}

The MCO shall adopt a utilization management structure consistent with state regulations and federal regulations and current NCQA "Standards for Accreditation of Health Plans." Pursuant to 42 CFR §438.330(b)(3), this structure must include an effective mechanism and written description to detect both under and over utilization.

Ensuring Appropriate Utilization

TCA Utilization Management Data Grid for Under/Over Utilization

DHS Contractual Element and References	Met or Not Met	Audit Comments
The MCO shall facilitate the delivery of appropriate care and monitor the impact of its utilization management program to detect and correct potential under and over utilization. The MCO Shall: i. Choose the appropriate number of relevant types of utilization data, including one type related to behavioral health to monitor.	Met	Types of Utilization data monitored include: Children and Adolescents' Access to PCP Adults' Access to Preventive/Ambulatory Health Services Well child visits Adolescent Well Care Annual Dental Visit Mental Health Utilization Follow-Up After Emergency Department Visit for Mental Illness (within 7 days) Identification of Alcohol and Other Drug Services
The MCO Shall: ii. Set thresholds for the selected types of utilization data and annually quantitatively analyze the data against the established thresholds to detect under and	Met	Thresholds based on trends over time utilizing HEDIS measures

^{5 2020} Standards and Guidelines for the Accreditation of Health Plans, effective July 1, 2020

DHS Contractual Element and References	Met or Not Met	Audit Comments
overutilization.		
The MCO Shall: iii. Examine possible explanations for all data not within thresholds.	Met	Data not meeting thresholds was appropriately analyzed
The MCO Shall: iv. Analyze data not within threshold by medical group or practice.	Met	
The MCO Shall: v. Take action to address identified problems of under or overutilization and measure the effectiveness of its interventions.67	Met	For instance: The Mental Health Utilization (MPT) goal was unmet for both PMAP and MNCare populations, as both were above the MN state average and had continued year-to-year increase in utilization. Due to the increase in new Mental Health Services and overall improved access to those services, IMCare anticipates that the MPT measure will continue to increase annually. The measure is somewhat limiting in that it includes all levels of Mental Healthcare. This makes it difficult to distinguish what levels of care are being utilized by IMCare enrollees. IMCare will continue the controlled substance (CS) focus study in order to identify those at risk for substance use conditions. IMCare will continue the emergency department (ED) focus study to identify individuals who regularly visit the emergency room for mental health or substance use disorders and make referrals as needed.

6 42 CFR 438.330(b)(3)

2020 NCQA Standards and Guidelines UM 1 – 4, 10 – 11; UM 13

The following are the 2020 NCQA Standards and Guidelines for the Accreditation of Health Plans UM 1-4 and 10-11, and UM 13.

TCA Utilization Management Data Grid for NCQA Standards

DHS Contractual Element and References	Met or Not Met	Audit Comments
NCQA Standard UM 1: Utilization Management Structure The organization clearly defines the structures and processes within its utilization management (UM) program and assigns responsibility to appropriate individuals.	Met	
Element A: Written Program Description	Met	
Element B: Annual Evaluation	Met	
NCQA Standard UM 2: Clinical Criteria for UM Decision To make utilization decisions, the organization uses written criteria based on sound clinical evidence and specifies procedures for appropriately applying the criteria.	Met	
Element A: UM Criteria	Met	
Element B: Availability of Criteria	Met	
Element C: Consistency of Applying Criteria	Met	
NCQA Standard UM 3: Communication Services The organization provides access to staff for members and practitioners seeking information about the UM process and the authorization of care. Element A: Access to Staff	Met	

DHS Contractual Element and References	Met or Not Met	Audit Comments
NCQA Standard UM 4: Appropriate Professionals Qualified Licensed health professionals assess the clinical information used to support UM decisions. Element A: Licensed Health Professionals	Met	
Element B: Use of Practitioners for UM Decisions	Met	
Element C: Practitioner Review of Non-Behavioral Healthcare Denials	Met	
Element D: Practitioner Review of Behavioral Healthcare Denials	Met	
Element E: Practitioner Review of Pharmacy Denials	Met	
Element F: Use of Board-Certified Consultants	Met	
NCQA Standard UM 10: Evaluation of New Technology The organization evaluates the inclusion of new technologies and the new application of existing technologies in the benefits plan. This includes medical and behavioral health procedures, pharmaceuticals, and devices. Element A: Written Process	Met	
Element B: Description of Evaluation Process	Met	
NCQA Standard UM 11: Procedures for Pharmaceutical Management The organization ensures that its procedures for pharmaceutical management, if any, promote the clinically appropriate use of pharmaceuticals Element A: Pharmaceutical Management Policies and Procedures	Met	

DHS Contractual Element and References	Met or Not Met	Audit Comments
Element B: Pharmaceutical Restrictions/Preferences	Met	
Element C: Pharmaceutical Patient Safety Issues	Met	
Element D: Reviewing and Updating Procedures	Met	
Element E: Considering Exceptions	Met	
NCQA Standard UM 13: Delegation of UM If the organization delegates UM activities, there is evidence of oversight of the delegated activities. Element A: Delegation Agreement	Met	
Element B: Pre-delegation Evaluation	Met	
Element C: Review of the UM Program	Met	
Element D: Opportunities for Improvement	Met	

IV. Special Health Care Needs - 2020 Contract Section 7.1.5 (1-4)^{7, 8,9}

The MCO must have effective mechanisms to assess the quality and appropriateness of care furnished to Enrollees with special health care needs.

Special Health Care Needs Data Grid

The MCO must have effective mechanisms to assess the	Audit Comments
to the STATE for approval. If the MCO's mechanism(s) have been approved by the STATE and there has been a material change, the MCO must timely submit a revised description to the STATE for approval (see also section 3.11.4). 7.1.5.1 Mechanism to Identify Persons with Special Health Care Needs. The MCO must identify Enrollees that may need additional services through method(s) approved by the STATE. Met	eviewed and discussed IMCare's Special Health Care Needs (SHCN) reports for 019 and 2020. nalysis was done on the data which was trended over time.

^{7 42} CFR 438.330 (b)(4)

⁸ MSHO, MSC+ Contract section 7.1.5 (1-4); SNBC Contract section 7.1.5 (1-4)

⁹ The definition of special health care needs is different among the three contracts. For MSHO/MSC+ and SNBC, all enrollees are considered to have special health care needs

DHS Contractual Element and References	Met or Not Met	Audit Comments
 (1) The MCO must analyze claim data for diagnoses and utilization patterns (both under- and over-utilization) to identify Enrollees who may have special health care needs. At a minimum the MCO must quarterly analyze claim data to identify Enrollees eighteen (18) years and older for the following: a. Prevention Quality Indicators as described in the "Guide to Prevention Quality Indicators: Hospital Admission for Ambulatory Care Sensitive Conditions" by AHRQ for bacterial pneumonia, dehydration, urinary tract infection, adult asthma, congestive heart failure, hypertension and chronic pulmonary disease; b. Hospital emergency department utilization as determined by the MCO; c. Inpatient utilization stays for the MCO's identified key Minnesota Health Care Program diagnoses or diagnoses clusters; d. Hospital readmission for the same or similar diagnoses as defined by the MCO within a timeframe specified by the MCO; e. Individual Enrollee claims totaling more than one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) per year; and f. Home Care Services utilization as determined by the MCO. 		
 (2) In addition to claims data, the MCO may use other methods, such as: 1) health risk assessment surveys; 2) performance measures; 3) medical record reviews; 4) Enrollees receiving PCA services; 5) requests for Service Authorizations; and/or 6) Other methods developed by the MCO or its Network Providers. 	Met	
B. Assessment of enrollees identified, (Senior and SNBC Contract – care plan) and	Met	

DHS Contractual Element and References	Met or Not Met	Audit Comments
7.1.5.2 Assessment of Enrollees Identified. The MCO must implement mechanisms to assess Enrollees identified and monitor the treatment plan set forth by the MCO's treatment team, as applicable. The assessment must utilize appropriate Health Care Professionals to identify any ongoing special conditions of the Enrollee that require a course of treatment or regular care monitoring.		
7.1.5.3 Access to Specialists. If the assessment determines the need for a course of treatment or regular care monitoring, the MCO must have a mechanism in place to allow Enrollees to directly access a specialist as appropriate for the Enrollee's condition and identified needs. [Minnesota Statutes, §62Q.58]	Met	
7.1.5.4 Annual Reporting to the STATE . The MCO shall incorporate into, or include as an addendum to, the MCO's Annual Quality Assessment and Performance Improvement Program Evaluation (as required in section 7.1.8) a Special Health Care Needs summary describing efforts to identify Enrollees that may need additional services and the following items:		
(1) The number of Adults identified in section 7.1.4(A) with special health care needs;		
(2) The annual number of assessments completed by the MCO or referrals for assessments completed; and		
(3) If the MCO adds the information in this section as an addendum, the addendum must include an evaluation of items 7.1.5.1 through 7.1.5.3.		

V. Practice Guidelines -2020 Contract Section 7.1.6 (1–2) 10

The MCO shall adopt, disseminate, and apply practice guidelines consistent with current NCQA "Standards and Guidelines for the Accreditation of Health Plans," QI 7 Clinical Practice Guidelines.

Practice Guidelines Data Grid

DHS Contractual Element and References	Met or Not Met	Audit Comments
Element A: Adoption of practice guidelines. The MCO shall adopt, disseminate, and apply practice guidelines, as required by 42 CFR §438.236. 7.1.6.1 Adoption of Practice Guidelines. The MCO shall adopt guidelines that: 1) are based valid and reliable clinical evidence or a consensus of Health Care Professionals in the particular field; 2) consider the needs of the MCO Enrollees; 3) are adopted in consultation with contracting Health Care Professionals; and 4) are reviewed and updated periodically as appropriate;		 IMCARE 2021 CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINES (UpToDate – www.uptodate.com): Overview of General Medical Care in Nonpregnant Adults with Diabetes Mellitus Overview of Preventive Care in Adults Geriatric Health Maintenance Screening for Breast Cancer: Strategies and Recommendations Screening Tests in Children and Adolescents Guidelines for Adolescent Preventive Services Screening for Depression in Adults
7.1.6.2 The MCO shall ensure that guidelines are disseminated to all affected Providers and, upon request, to Enrollees and Potential Enrollees;	Met	
7.1.6.3 Application of Guidelines . The MCO shall ensure that these guidelines are applied to decisions for utilization management, Enrollee education, coverage of services, and other areas to which there is application and consistency with the guidelines.	Met	

¹⁰ MSHO/MSC+ Contract section 7.1.6 (1 - 2); SNBC Contract section 7.1.6 (1-2)

VI. Annual Quality Assurance Work Plan – 2020 Contract Section 7.1.7

The MCO shall provide the STATE with an annual written work plan that details the MCO's proposed quality assurance and performance improvement projects for the year. This report shall follow the guidelines and specifications contained in Minnesota Rules, part 4685.1130, subpart 2, and current NCQA "Standards and Guidelines for the Accreditation of Health Plans."

Annual Quality Assurance Work Plan Data Grid

	DHS Contractual Element and References	Met or Not Met	Audit Comments
A.	The MCO shall provide the STATE with an annual written work plan that details the MCO's proposed quality assurance and performance improvement projects for the year. This report shall follow the guidelines and specifications contained in Minnesota Rules, part 4685.1130, subpart 2, and 2020 NCQA "Standards and Guidelines for the Accreditation of Health Plans." If the MCO chooses to substantively amend, modify, or update its work plan at any time during the year, it shall provide the STATE with material amendments, modifications, or updates in a timely manner. (See also section 3.11.4); and	Met	
В.	Current NCQA "Standards and Guidelines for the Accreditation of Health Plans." NCQA QI 1, Element B: An annual work plan that reflects ongoing progress on QI activities throughout the year and addresses: (1) Yearly planned QI activities and objectives for improving: • Quality of clinical care • Safety of clinical care • Quality of service • Members' experience (2) Time frame for each activity's completion (3) Staff members responsible for each activity (4) Monitoring of previously identified issues (5) Evaluation of the QI program	Met	

VII. Annual Quality Assessment and Performance Improvement Program Evaluation – 2020 Contract Section $7.1.8^{11,12}$

The MCO must conduct an annual quality assessment and performance improvement program evaluation consistent with state and federal regulations and current NCQA "Standards and Guidelines for the Accreditation of Health Plans."

Annual Quality Assessment and Performance Improvement Program Evaluation Data Grid

DHS Contractual Element and References	Met or Not Met	Audit Comments
A. 7.1.8 Annual Quality Assessment and Performance Improvement Program Evaluation must:	Met	
 Review the impact and effectiveness of the MCO's quality assessment and performance improvement program 		
ii. Include performance on standardized measures (example: Organization-specific data, CHAPS, HEDIS®) and		
iii. MCO's performance improvement projects.		
NCQA QI 1, Element C: Annual Evaluation	Met	
The organization conducts an annual written evaluation of the QI program that includes the following information:		
 A description of completed and ongoing QI activities that address quality and safety of clinical care and quality of service. 		

^{11 42} CFR 438.330(b), (d); Families and Children MA, Seniors (MSHO/MSC+) and SNBC Contract Section 7.1.8

¹² MSHO/MSC+ Contract Section 7.1.8 also includes the requirement that the MCO must include the "Quality Framework for the Elderly Waiver" in its Annual Evaluation

DHS Contractual Element and References	Met or Not Met	Audit Comments
2. Trending of measures to assess performance in the quality and safety of clinical care and quality of services.	Met	
3. Analysis and evaluation of the overall effectiveness of the QI program and of its progress toward influencing network-wide safe clinical practices.	Met	

VIII. Performance Improvement Projects-2020 Contract Section 7.2, 7.2.1(1-2)^{13, 14}

The MCO must conduct PIPs designed to achieve, through ongoing measurements and intervention, significant improvement, sustained over time, in clinical care and non-clinical care areas that are expected to have a favorable effect on health outcomes and Enrollee satisfaction. Projects must comply with 42 CFR § 438.30(b)(1) and (d) and CMS protocol entitled "Protocol for Use in Conducting Medicaid External Quality Review Activities: Conducting Performance Improvement Projects." The MCO is encouraged to participate in PIP collaborative initiatives that coordinate PIP topics and designs between MCOs.

Performance Improvement Projects Data Grid

DHS Contractual Element and References	Met or Not Met	Audit Comments
7.2.1 New Performance Improvement Project Proposal. In 2018, the STATE selected the Preventing Chronic Opioid Use topic for the PIP to be conducted over a three-year period (calendar years 2018, 2019, and 2020). The PIP must be consistent with CMS' published protocol entitled "Protocol for Use in Conducting Medicaid External Quality Review Activities: Conducting Performance Improvement Projects," STATE requirements, and include steps one through seven of the CMS protocol.	Met	The following reports were reviewed and discussed for Families/Children and Seniors: Opioid Prescribing Improvement Project report PIP Title: Increasing Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) Vaccination Rates Among Adolescents. PIP Title: Reducing the Incidence of Poor HbA1c Control (>9.0%) (CDC) among the IMCare Minnesota Senior Health Option (MSHO) Enrollees.
7.2.1.1 The MCO shall provide annual PIP progress reports to the STATE. For the 2018-2020 PIPs, the second interim report is due September 1, 2020.	Met	Interim reports reviewed for 2018 and 2019: Final reports reviewed and discussed.

^{13 42} CFR 438.330 (b)(1), 42 CFR 438.330(d); MSHO/MSC+ Contract section 7.2, 7.2.1 (1-2); SNBC Contract section 7.2, 7.2.1 (1-2)

¹⁴ CMS Protocols, EQR Protocol 3: Validating Performance Improvement Projects

DHS Contractual Element and References	Met or Not Met	Audit Comments
7.2.1.2 For the 2018-2020 PIPs, the final report will be due September 1, 2021.		PIP Title: Elimination of Race and Ethnic Disparities in the Management of Depression Final Report: A Collaborative Approach to Optimize Depression Care for Seniors Final Report
PIP Proposal and PIP Interim Report Validation Sheets. DHS uses these tools to review and validate MCOs' PIP proposals and annual status reports.	N/A	None submitted to MDH For review

IX. Population Health Management (PHM) - 2020 Contract Section 7.3 (1-5)¹⁵

Population Health Management Program. The MCO shall create and report annually to the STATE a Population Health Management Strategy or any amendment to the original PHM strategy by July 31 of the contract year, including structure and processes to maintain and improve health care quality, and measures in place to evaluate plan MCO's performance on its process outcomes (for example, clinical care, or Enrollee experience of care). The plan must be updated within thirty (30) days if the MCO makes a modification to its PHM Strategy, consistent with section 3.11.3, Service Delivery Plan.

Population Health Management Data Grid

DHS Contractual Element and References	Met or Not Met	Audit Comments
7.3.1 Population Health Management (PHM) Strategy . The MCO's PHM Strategy ¹⁶ or any amendment ¹⁷ to the original PHM strategy by July 31 of the contract year, including structure and processes to maintain and improve health care quality, and measures in place to evaluate MCO's performance on its process outcomes (for example, clinical care, or Enrollee experience of care). The MCO must inform the STATE within thirty (30) days if the MCO makes a modification to its PHM Strategy, consistent with section 3.11.4, Service Delivery Plan; and	Met	Reviewed and Discussed IMCare's Population Health Management Program Description 2021 1. Keeping enrollees healthy Goal: Increase in annual age-appropriate wellness exams for enrollees as captured in the following HEDIS measures to include Goal: Increase in annual age-appropriate wellness exams for enrollees as captured in the following HEDIS measures: Breast Cancer screening (BCS); Colorectal Cancer screening (COL); Cervical Cancer screening (CCS); Chlamydia screening (CHL).

¹⁵ MSHO/MSC+ Contract Section 7.3, requires only diabetes and heart disease DM programs, SNBC Contract Section 7.2.6

¹⁶ For MCOs who are in their first year of PHM in 2020

¹⁷ For MCOs who are in their second year of PHM in 2020 and making amendments in their PHM Strategies, after conducting an impact analysis.

DHS Contractual Element and References	Met or Not Met	Audit Comments
MCO shall be consistent with current NCQA "Standards and Guidelines for the Accreditation of Health Plans" pursuant to the current Standards for Population Health Management (PHM). At a minimum, the comprehensive PHM Strategy shall describe: (1) Measurable goals and populations targeted for each of the four areas of focus; (2) Programs and services offered to members for each area of focus; (3) At least one activity that is not direct member intervention (an activity may apply to more than one area of focus); (4) How member programs are coordinated across potential settings, Providers, and levels of care to minimize the confusion for Enrollees being contacted from multiple sources (coordination activities may apply across the continuum of care and to other organization initiatives); and (5) How Enrollees are informed about available PHM programs and services (for example, by interactive contact and/or distribution of materials).		 Managing enrollees with emerging risk Discussed disease prevalence - half of IMCare's population had one psychosocial dx, includes SUD and MH population. Dx of obesity higher risk of co-occurring chronic conditions of CV, endocrine, MH conditions Goal: Annual reduction in patient re-admissions in target population Patient Safety Across settings Goal: Increase follow up after ER visits for mental illness or substance use disorder (SUD) Managing multiple chronic illnesses Goal: Annual reduction in hospital admission for chronic health conditions in target Goal: Annual improvement HBA1C of 8% or lower for enrollees with diabetes by 2 percentage points as identified by HEDIS measures Comprehensive Diabetes Care (CDC).
 A. The PHM Strategy shall include the following areas of focus: a. Keeping Enrollees healthy, b. Managing Enrollees with emerging risk, c. Patient safety or outcomes across settings, and d. Managing multiple chronic illnesses 		
Current NCQA Standards and Guidelines for the Accreditation of Health Plan for PHM. NCQA Standard PHM 1: PHM Strategy The organization outlines its PHM strategy for meeting the care needs of its member population.	Met	

DHS Contractual Element and References	Met or Not Met	Audit Comments
Element A: PHM Strategy Description		
(1) Measurable goals and populations targeted for each of the four areas of focus;		
(2) Programs and services offered to members for each area of focus;	Met	
(3) At least one activity that is not direct member intervention (an activity may apply to more than one areas of focus);	Met	
(4) How member programs are coordinated across potential settings, Providers, and levels of care to minimize the confusion for Enrollees being contacted from multiple sources (coordination activities may apply across the continuum of care and to other organization initiatives); and	Met	
(5) How Enrollees are informed about available PHM programs and services (for example, by interactive contact and/or distribution of materials).	Met	
Element B: Informing Members Factor 1: How members become eligible to participate	Met	
Factor 2: How to use program services	Met	
Factor 3: How to opt in or opt out of the program	Met	
NCQA Standard PHM 2: Population Identification. The organization systematically collects, integrates and assesses member data to inform its population health management programs (e.g., documented process, reports, materials). Element A: Data Integration		
Element B: Population Assessment	Met	

DHS Contractual Element and References	Met or Not Met	Audit Comments
Element C: Activities and Resources	Met	
Element D: Segmentation	Met	
NCQA Standard PHM 3: Delivery System Supports The organization describes how it supports the delivery system, patient-centered medical homes and use of value-based payment arrangements. Element A: Practitioner or Provider Support	Met	
Element B: Value-Based Payment Arrangements	Met	
NCQA Standard PHM 4: Wellness and Prevention The organization offers wellness services focused on preventing illness and injury, promoting health and productivity, and reducing risk. Element A: Frequency of Health Appraisal Completion		
Element B: Topics of Self-Management Tools Factor 1: Healthy weight (BMI) maintenance Factor 2: Smoking and tobacco use cessation Factor 3: Encouraging physical activity Factor 4: Eating healthy Factor 5: Managing stress Factor 6: Avoiding at-risk drinking Factor 7: Identifying depressive symptoms	Met	
NCQA Standard PHM 5: Complex Case Management The organization coordinates services for its highest risk members with complex conditions and helps them access needed resources. Element A: Access to Case Management	Met	

DHS Contractual Element and References	Met or Not Met	Audit Comments
Element B: Case Management Systems	Met	
Element C: Case Management Process	Met	
Element D: Initial Assessment	Met	
Element E: Case Management: Ongoing Management	Met	
NCQA Standard PHM 6: PHM Impact ¹⁸ If the organization annually measures the effectiveness of its PHM Strategy. Element A: Measuring Effectiveness Factor 1: Quantitative results for relevant clinical, cost/utilization and experience measure (not CHAPS) Factor 2: Comparison of results with a benchmark or goal Factor 3: Interpretation of results / actions	Met	PHM Impact Report not yet available. Reviewed and discussed process.
Element B: Improvement and Action	N/A	
NCQA Standard PHM 7: Delegation of PHM If the organization delegates PHM activities, there is evidence of oversight of the delegated activities. Element A: Delegation Agreement	N/A	
Element B: Pre-delegation Evaluation	N/A	
Element C: Review of the PHM Program	N/A	

¹⁸ A comprehensive analysis of the impact of its PHM strategy in consecutive years

DHS Contractual Element and References		Audit Comments
Element D: Opportunities for Improvement	N/A	
7.3.2 PHM Reporting: 7.3.2.1: The MCO shall annually describe its methodology for segmenting or stratifying its Enrollee population, including the subsets to which Enrollees are assigned (for example, high risk pregnancy) and provide to the STATE a report specifying the following: (1) Number of Enrollees in each category and (2) Number of programs or services for which these Enrollees are eligible; and		PHM Impact Report not yet available. Reviewed and discussed process.
7.3.2.2: The MCO shall annually report to the STATE a comprehensive analysis of the impact of its PHM strategy that includes at least the following factors: (1) Quantitative results for relevant: a. Clinical measures (outcome or process measures); b. Cost of care or utilization measures; and c. Enrollee experience measures (for example, complaints or Enrollee feedback, using focus group or a satisfaction survey).	N/A	
(2) Comparison of results, including with a benchmark or goal;	N/A	
(3) Interpretation of results, including interpretation of measures; and	N/A	
(4) The Impact Analysis report is due by July, 31 of the contract year.	N/A	

X. Advance Directives Compliance - 2020 Contract Section 14 (14.1-14.5)^{19, 20}

The MCO agrees to provide all Enrollees at the time of enrollment a written description of applicable State law on Advance Directives and the following:

Advance Directives Compliance Data Grid

		DHS Contractual Element and References	Met or Not Met	Audit Comments
1.	at	rollee Information. The MCO agrees to provide all Enrollees the time of enrollment a written description of applicable te law on Advance Directives and the following: Information regarding the enrollee's right to accept or refuse medical or surgical treatment; and to execute a living will, durable power of attorney for health care decisions, or other advance directive;		
	В.	Written policies of the MCO respecting the implementation of the right;	Met	
	C.	Updated or revised changes in State law as soon as possible, but no later than 90 days after the effective date of the change; and	Met	
	D.	Information that complaints concerning noncompliance	Met	

¹⁹ MSC/MSC+ Contract Article 16; SNBC Contract Article 14, Sections 14.1-14.5

²⁰ Pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1396a(a)(57) and (58) and 42 C.F.R. 489.100-104 and 42 C.F.R. 422.128

DHS Contractual Element and References	Met or Not Met	Audit Comments
with the Advance Directive requirement may be filed with the State survey and certification agency (i.e., Minnesota Department of Health), pursuant to 42 CFR 422.128 as required in 42 FR 438.6(i).		
2. Providers Documentation. To require MCO's Primary Care Providers; hospitals, critical access hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, nursing facilities, home health agencies, providers of home health care (and for Medicaid purposes, providers of personal care services), and hospices to ensure that it has been documented in the enrollee's medical records whether or not an individual has executed an Advance Directive.	Met	See table below for documentation compliance
3. Treatment. To not condition treatment or otherwise discriminate on the basis of whether an individual has executed an advance directive.	Met	
4. Compliance with State Law . To comply with State law, whether statutory or recognized by the courts of the State on Advance Directives, including Minnesota Statutes Chapters 145B and 145C.	Met	
5. Education. To provide, individually or with others, education for MCO staff, providers, and the community on Advance Directives.	Met	

Record Content	Goal	2017	2018	2019	Status
Health Care Directives are	80%	68.5%	60%	37.91%	Below
documented in the medical record for those 18 years and older.		111/162	108/180	69/182	Goal

Audit consisted of a random sample of 30 enrollees from each primary care clinic who had three or more clinic visits during the measurement year, from all programs.

XI. Validation of MCO Care Plan Audits for MSHO, MSC+ - 2020 Article 6 (Seniors Contract Sections 7.1.4, 7.8.3, and 9.4.1)²¹

MDH will collect information for DHS to monitor MCO Care Plan Audit activities as outlined in the DHS/MCO MSHO/MSC+ Contract.

Validation of MSHO and MSC Care Plan Audits Data Grid

	DHS Contractual Element and References	Met or Not Met	Audit Comments
A. B.	DHS will provide MDH with Data Collection Guide for the random sample of 30 MCO enrollees (plus an over sample of 10 MCO enrollees for missing or unavailable enrollee records) for MSHO and MSC+ program. Of the 40 records sampled, 20 records will be for members new to the MCO within the past 12 months and other 20 records will be for members who have been with the MCO for more than 12 months. MDH will request the MCO make available during the MDH QA Examination on-site audit	Wet	Per DHS, 2019 protocols were used in the audit since there were so many changes in 2020 due to the pandemic. MDH audit showed 100% compliance with all protocol elements. IMCare had 6 areas for which they requested a
C.	the identified enrollee records. A copy of the data collection instruction sheet, tool and guide will be included with MDH's record request. An eight-thirty audit methodology will be used to complete a data collection tool for each file in each sample consistent with the Data Collection Guide.		CAP from Itasca County Public Health. CAP is requested for those areas scoring below 95%. IMCare follows up within the timeline prescribed by the CAP to ensure that
D.	Within 60 days of completing the on-site MDH QA Examination, MDH will provide DHS with a brief report summarizing the data collection results, any other appropriate information and the completed data collection tools.		appropriate interventions are implemented to meet goal.

²¹ Pursuant to MSHO/MSC+ 2019 Contract Sections 6.1.4-6.1.5, 7.8.3 and 9.4.1

XII. Subcontractors-2020 Contract Sections 9.3 (and subsections) and 9.10.4²²

1. Written Agreement; Disclosures

All subcontracts must be current, in writing, fully executed, and must include a specific description of payment arrangements. All subcontracts are subject to STATE and CMS review and approval, upon request by the STATE and/or CMS. Payment arrangements must be available for review by the STATE and/or CMS. All contracts must include:

Written Agreement and Disclosures Data Grid

DHS Contractual Element and References	Met or Not Met	Audit Comments
 A. Disclosure of Ownership and Management Information (Subcontractors). In order to assure compliance with 42 CFR § 455.104, the MCO, before entering into or renewing a contract with a subcontractor, must request the following information: (1) The name, address, date of birth, social security number (in the case of an individual), and tax identification number (in the case of a corporation) of each Person, with an Ownership or Control Interest in the disclosing entity or in any subcontractor in which the disclosing entity has direct or indirect ownership of five percent (5%) or more. The address for corporate entities must include primary business address, every business location, and P.O. Box address; 	Met	

²² Families and Children MA, Seniors, SNBC Contract Sections 9.3 (and sub-sections), 9.10.4

T.	DHS Contractual Element and References	Met or Not Met	Audit Comments
(2)	A statement as to whether any Person with an Ownership or Control Interest in the disclosing entity as identified in 9.10.1.1is related (if an individual) to any other Person with an Ownership or Control Interest as spouse, parent, child, or sibling;	Met	
(3)	The name of any other disclosing entity in which a Person with an Ownership or Control Interest in the disclosing entity also has an ownership or control interest;	Met	
(4)	The name, address, date of birth, and social security number of any managing employee of the disclosing entity;	Met	
(5)	For the purposes of section 9.10, subcontractor means an individual, agency, or organization to which a disclosing entity has contracted, or is a person with an employment, consulting or other arrangement with the MCO for the provision of items and services that are significant and material to the MCO's obligations under its Contract with the STATE;	Met	
(6)	MCO Disclosure Assurance. The MCO must submit to the STATE by September 1st of the Contract Year a letter of assurance stating that the disclosure of ownership information has been requested of all subcontractors and reviewed by the MCO prior to MCO and subcontractor contract renewal. The letter should identify all databases that were included in the review. A data certification pursuant to section 11.6 is required with this assurance; and	Met	
(7)	Upon request, subcontractors must report to the MCO information related to business transactions. Subcontractors must be able to submit this information to the MCO within fifteen (15) days of the date of a written request from the STATE or CMS. The MCO must report the information to the STATE within ten (10) days of the MCO's receipt from the subcontractor.	Met	
and mus are subj and/or 0	ten Agreements: All subcontracts must be current, in writing, fully executed, st include a specific description of payment arrangements. All subcontracts ect to STATE and CMS review and approval, upon request by the STATE CMS. Payment arrangements must be available for review by the STATE CMS. All contracts must include:	Met	

DHS Contractual Element and References	Met or Not Met	Audit Comments
1. MCO subcontracts that include delegation of program integrity responsibilities must require Subcontractors to comply with program integrity obligations under state and federal law and section 9.9.1 of this contract. If an MCO engages with a subcontractor and does not delegate its program integrity responsibilities to the subcontractor, the MCO shall remain responsible for all program integrity responsibilities under state and federal law and section 9.9.1.1 with respect to the Subcontractor's services.		
2. Current and fully executed agreements for all subcontractors, including bargaining groups, must be maintained for all administrative services that are expensed to MHCP. Subcontractor agreements determined to be material, as defined by the STATE, must be in the form of a written instrument or electronic document containing the elements of offer, acceptance, consideration, payment terms, scope, duration of the contract, and how the subcontractor services relate to MHCP.	Met	
3. Upon request, the STATE shall have access to all subcontractor documentation under this section.	Met	
4. Nothing in this section shall allow release of information that is nonpublic data pursuant to section Minnesota Statutes, §13.02.	Met	

2. Exclusions of Individuals and Entities; Confirming Identity – 2020 Contract Sections 9.10.1, 9.3.6, and Article 15 $(15.1)^{23}$ ²⁴

Exclusion of Individuals Data Grid

	DHS Contractual Element and References	Met or Not Met	Audit Comments
(A)	Exclusions of Individuals and Entities; Confirming Identity (1) The MCO must confirm the identity and determine the exclusion status of Providers and any Person with an Ownership or Control Interest or who is an agent or Managing Employee of the MCO or its Subcontractors, or an affiliate ²⁵ , upon contract execution or renewal and credentialing, through routine checks of state and Federal databases. The databases to be checked are the Social Security Administration's Death Master File and the National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES), and the Excluded Provider Lists maintained by the STATE.	Met	
	(2) The MCO and its subcontractors must search monthly, and upon contract execution or renewal, and credentialing, the OIG List of Excluded Individuals/Entities (LEIE) and the Excluded Parties List System (EPLS, within the HHS System for Awards Management) database (and may search the Medicare Exclusion Database), and the Excluded Provider Lists maintained by the STATE, for any Providers, agents, Persons with an Ownership or Control Interest and Managing Employees to verify that these persons:	Met	

²³ Families and Children, Seniors and SNBC Contract Sections 9.10.1 (and subsections); 9.3.6; Article 15 (15.1)

^{24 42} CFR §438.610 referring to 48 CFR §2.101; 42 CFR §455.436; Minnesota Statutes, §256B.064, subd. 3

	DHS Contractual Element and References	Met or Not Met	Audit Comments
	1.Are not excluded from participation in Medicaid by the STATE nor under §§ 1128 or 1128A of the Social Security Act; and		
	2. Have not been convicted of a criminal offense related to that person's involvement in any program established under Medicare, Medicaid or the programs under Title XX of the Social Security Act. [42 CFR §§455.436; 438.602(d); 438.610]	Met	
(3)	The MCO must require Subcontractors to assure to the MCO that no agreements exist with an excluded entity or individual for the provision of items or services related to the MCO's obligation under this Contract.	Met	
(4)	The MCO shall require all Subcontractors to report to the MCO within five (5) days any information regarding individuals or entities specified in (A) above, who have been convicted of a criminal offense related to the involvement in any program established under Medicare, Medicaid, the programs under Title XX services program, or that have been excluded from participation in Medicaid under §§ 1128 or 1128A of the Social Security Act.	Met	
(5)	The MCO shall report any excluded Provider to the STATE within seven (7) days of the date the MCO receives the information, or determines that a Network Provider, Person with an Ownership or Control Interest of a Network Provider, agent or managing Employee of the MCO, Subcontractor or affiliate has become excluded or the MCO has inadvertently contracted with an excluded Provider.	Met	
(6)	In addition to complying with the provisions of section 9.9, the MCO shall not enter into any subcontract that is prohibited, in whole or in part, under § 4707(a) of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 or under Minnesota Statutes, § 62J.71.	Met	

DHS Contractual Element and References	Met or Not Met	Audit Comments
(B) The MCO shall ensure that its Subcontractors that provide Priority Services have in place a written Business Continuity Plan (BCP) that complies with the requirements of Article. 15.		

Attachment A: MDH 2019 EW Care Plan Audit

Audit Protocol	Product Description	2021 MDH Audit Initial Charts Met	2021 MDH Audit Reassessment Charts Met	2021 MDH Audit Total % Charts Met	2020 IMCare EW Total Charts % Met
1 INITIAL HEALTH RISK	For members new to the MCO or product within the last 12 months	8/8	N/A	100.00%	100.00%
ASSESSMENT					
2 ANNUAL HEALTH RISK ASSESSMENT	Been a member of the MCO for > 12 months [Only for plans with separate HRA]	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
3 LONG TERM CARE CONSULTATION – INITIAL	If member is new to EW in the past 12 months, an LTCC assessment completed within required timelines.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
4 REASSESSMENT OF EW	For members open to EW who have been a member of the MCO for more than 12 months, an LTCC completed within 365 days or prior assessment.	N/A	8/8	100.00%	100.00%
5 PERSON-CENTERED PLANNING	Opportunities for choice in the person's current environment are described	8/8	8/8	100.00%	100.00%
PERSON-CENTERED PLANNING	Current rituals and routines are described (quality, predictability, preferences)	8/8	8/8	100.00%	100.00%
PERSON-CENTERED PLANNING	Social, leisure, or religious activities the person wants to participate in are described. The person's decision about	8/8	8/8	100.00%	100.00%

Audit Protocol	Product Description	2021 MDH Audit Initial Charts Met	2021 MDH Audit Reassessment Charts Met	2021 MDH Audit Total % Charts Met	2020 IMCare EW Total Charts % Met
	employment/volunteer opportunities has been documented				
6 COMPREHENSIVE CARE PLAN-TIMELINESS	CCP is completed and sent to member with 30 calendar days of the date of a completed LTCC.	8/8	8/8	100.00%	83.33%
7 COMPREHENSIVE CARE PLAN-IDENTIFIED NEEDS	The CCP must have an interdisciplinary, holistic, and preventive focus. Enrollee's identified needs and concerns related to primary care, acute care, long-term care, mental and behavioral health, and social service needs and concerns are addressed. The need for services essential to the health and safety of the enrollee is documented. If essential services are included in the plan, a back-up plan for provision of essential services. There is a plan for community-wide disasters, such as weather-related conditions.	8/8	8/8	100.00%	96.67%
8 COMPREHENSIVE CARE PLAN	The enrollee's goals or skills to be achieved are included in the plan, related to enrollee's preferences and how enrollee wants to live their life. Goals and skills are clearly described, action steps describing what needs to be done to assist the person, plan for monitoring progress, target dates and outcome/achievement dates.	8/8	8/8	100.00%	100.00%
9	Enrollee was given a choice between Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) and Nursing Home Services (also	8/8	8/8	100.00%	96.55%

Audit Protocol	Product Description	2021 MDH Audit Initial Charts Met	2021 MDH Audit Reassessment Charts Met	2021 MDH Audit Total % Charts Met	2020 IMCare EW Total Charts % Met
COMPEREHENSIVE CARE PLAN-Choice	indicates enrollee involvement in care planning). Information to enable choice among				
COMPREHENSIVE CARE PLAN-Safety Plan/Personal Risk Management Plan	Identification of enrollee needs and concerns, including identification of health and safety risks, and what to do in the event of an emergency Goals and target dates identified Interventions identified Monitoring of outcomes and achievement dates are documented	8/8	8/8	100.00%	100.00%
11 COMPREHENSIVE CARE PLAN-Informal and Formal Services	Coordinated Services and Support Plan developed and contains at a minimum the type of services to be furnished, the amount, frequency, duration and cost of each service and the type of provider furnishing each service including non-paid caregivers and other informal community supports or resources	8/8	8/8	100.00%	100.00%
CAREGIVER SUPPORT	If a primary caregiver is identified in the LTCC. If interview completed, then caregiver needs and supports incorporated into the care plan	8/8	8/8	100.00%	100.00%
HOUSING AND TRANSITION	For people who have been identified as having a transition, the enrollee has a transition plan to support housing choice. The LTCC assessment items relate to	8/8	8/8	100.00%	100.00%

Audit Protocol	Product Description	2021 MDH Audit Initial Charts Met	2021 MDH Audit Reassessment Charts Met	2021 MDH Audit Total % Charts Met	2020 IMCare EW Total Charts % Met
	housing choices and support, and if enrollee indicates they want assistance in exploring housing options the transition plan reflects a goal, steps to be taken and potential barriers				
COMMUNICATIONS OF CARE PLAN/SUMMARY-Physician	Evidence of care coordinator communication of care plan elements with Primary Care Physician (PCP)	8/8	8/8	100.00%	93.33%
15 COMMUNICATION OF CARE PLAN/SUMMARY- Enrollee	The support plan is signed and dated by the enrollee or authorized representative	8/8	8/8	100.00%	86.89%
COMPREHENSIVE CARE PLAN-Enrollee Requests for Updates	The plan includes a method for the individual to request updates to the plan, as needed	8/8	8/8	100.00%	100.00%
17 CARE COORDINATOR FOLLOW-UP PLAN	Follow-up plan for contact plan related to identified concerns or needs, and plan is implemented	8/8	8/8	100.00%	100.00%
18 ANNUAL PREVENTIVE HEALTH EXAM	Documentation in enrollee's Comprehensive Care Plan substantiates a conversation was initiated	8/8	8/8	100.00%	100.00%

Audit Protocol	Product Description	2021 MDH Audit Initial Charts Met	2021 MDH Audit Reassessment Charts Met	2021 MDH Audit Total % Charts Met	2020 IMCare EW Total Charts % Met
19 ADVANCE DIRECTIVE	Evidence that a discussion was initiated, enrollee refused to complete, was culturally inappropriate, or AD was completed	8/8	8/8	100.00%	100.00%
20 APPEAL RIGHTS	Appeal rights information provided to member	8/8	8/8	100.00%	96.67%
21 DATA PRIVACY	Data privacy information provided to member	8/8	8/8	100.00%	96.67%

Summary:

MDH received the EW audit sample lists from DHS per audit protocol. MDH reviewed 8 initial EW audits and 8 reassessments.

Per DHS, 2019 protocols were used in the audit since there were so many changes in 2020 due to the pandemic. MDH audit showed 100% compliance with all protocol elements.

IMCare had 6 areas for which they requested a CAP from Itasca County Public Health. CAP is requested for those areas scoring below 95%. IMCare follows up within the timeline prescribed by the CAP to ensure that appropriate interventions are implemented to meet goal.