

Hennepin Health

QUALITY ASSURANCE EXAMINATION

Date: Final Issue Date December 11, 2023

Hennepin Health Final Report

For the Period: August 2019 to June 2022

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MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) conducted a Quality Assurance Examination of Hennepin Health to determine to determine whether it is operating in accordance with Minnesota Law. Our mission is to protect, maintain and improve the health of all Minnesotans.

MDH has found that Hennepin Health is compliant with Minnesota and Federal law, except in the areas outlined in the "Deficiencies" and Mandatory Improvements" sections of this report. Deficiencies are violations of law. "Mandatory Improvements" are required corrections that must be made to non-compliant policies, documents, or procedures where evidence of actual compliance is found or where the file sample did not include any instances of the specific issue of concern. The "Recommendations" listed are areas where, although compliant with law, MDH identified improvement opportunities.
To address recommendations, Hennepin Health should:
(None-Discussion and revisions noted)
To address mandatory improvements, Hennepin Health and its delegates must:
(None Found)
To address deficiencies, Hennepin Health and its delegates must:
(None found)
This report including these deficiencies, mandatory improvements and recommendations is approved and adopted by the Minnesota Commissioner of Health pursuant to authority in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 62D.
Diane Rydrych, Director Date Health Policy Division

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I. Introduction

1. History:

Hennepin Health, formerly known as Metropolitan Health Plan (MHP), has functioned as a Hennepin County-owned and operated health maintenance organization (HMO) since 1983. Hennepin Health is the only county-run HMO in Minnesota and currently operates and bears financial risk for three products, Prepaid Medical Assistance Program (PMAP), Special Needs BasicCare (SNBC) and MinnesotaCare, in its Hennepin County service area. As of May 2022, Hennepin Health serves over 36,000 Hennepin County residents as members, and works to serve all Hennepin County residents, especially those who are eligible for Medical Assistance, regardless of membership in the Hennepin Health plans.

Under the leadership of the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners, Hennepin Health works to execute its mission to improve the health of Hennepin County residents through innovative collaboration with health care providers, Hennepin County Human Services, and community organizations, as well as our Hennepin Health members. Hennepin Health operates in close collaboration with other Hennepin County departments and Hennepin Healthcare, Minnesota's leading safety-net provider system owned by a subsidiary corporation of Hennepin County, to provide an integrated approach to addressing the social determinants of health and to reducing barriers that individuals and families face in accessing the safety-net programs, including medical assistance, that provide the tools residents need to build healthy, productive lives. Hennepin Health plays a leading role in the County's health reform efforts including financing annual value-based payments and funding and spearheading innovations across Hennepin County and Hennepin Healthcare, seeking to reform the health care delivery system, and to deliver better health outcomes at lower cost with increased member and resident satisfaction. Hennepin Health also works collaboratively with departments across Hennepin County on initiatives such as reducing disparities by re-focusing and optimizing the way Hennepin County works in order to make long-term impacts on outcomes in the following domains: education, employment, health, housing, income, justice and transportation.

Hennepin Health's PMAP and MinnesotaCare products are centered around an innovative, nationally recognized accountable care model, focused on integrating county and community services into health care settings to address the social determinants of health, to have a greater impact on total health, and to streamline access to health care and social services for Hennepin County residents. The core of the Hennepin Health provider network includes Hennepin Healthcare (HCMC), NorthPoint Health & Wellness, Children's Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota, North Memorial Medical Center, Fairview Health Services, and effective January 1, 2022, Allina Health. In addition, Hennepin Health has a robust network of other providers, including Federally Qualified Health Centers, community clinics, and behavioral health organizations, that offer a full range of covered services, including dental and transportation benefits. The Hennepin Health SNBC product has an even broader

network, including additional providers who provide specialty services frequently accessed by adult SNBC members living with disabilities.

As Hennepin Health completes its thirty-ninth year of operation, the Hennepin Health team continues to develop new ways to integrate health care and social services, to reduce barriers to access for Hennepin Health members and all Hennepin County residents and to execute on the Hennepin Health vision to change how we build healthy, equitable communities in Hennepin County and beyond.

2. Membership: Hennepin Health self-reported Minnesota enrollment as of April 1, 2022, consisted of the following:

Self-Reported Enrollment

Product	Enrollment
Fully Insured Commercial	
Large Group	NA
Small Employer Group	NA
Individual	NA
Minnesota Health Care Programs – Managed Care (MHCP-MC)	
Families & Children	31,577
MinnesotaCare	2299
Minnesota Senior Care (MSC+)	NA
Minnesota Senior Health Options (MSHO)	NA
Special Needs Basic Care	2151
Total	36,027

3. Onsite Examination Dates: July 11 through 14, 2022

Examination Period: August 2019 to June 2022
 File Review Period: March 1, 2021, to April 30, 2022

Opening Date: April 28, 2022

- 5. Sampling Methodology: Due to the small sample sizes and the methodology used for sample selection for the quality assurance examination, the results cannot be extrapolated as an overall deficiency rate for the health plan.
- 6. Performance Standard: For each instance of non-compliance with applicable law or rule identified during the quality assurance examination, that covers a three-year audit period, the health plan is cited with a deficiency. A deficiency will not be based solely on one outlier file if MDH has sufficient evidence that a plan's overall operation is

compliant with an applicable law. Sufficient evidence may be obtained through: 1) file review; 2) policies and procedures; and 3) interviews.

II. Quality Program Administration

Quality Program

Minnesota Rules, Part 4685.1110

Subparts	Subject	Met	Not Met
Subp. 1.	Written Quality Assurance Plan	⊠Met	□ Not Met
Subp. 2.	Documentation of Responsibility	⊠Met	□ Not Met
Subp. 3.	Appointed Entity	⊠Met	□ Not Met
Subp. 4.	Physician Participation	⊠Met	□ Not Met
Subp. 5.	Staff Resources	⊠Met	□ Not Met
Subp. 6.	Delegated Activities	⊠Met	☐ Not Met
Subp. 7.	Information System	⊠Met	□ Not Met
Subp. 8.	Program Evaluation	⊠Met	☐ Not Met
Subp. 9.	Complaints	⊠Met	□ Not Met
Subp. 10.	Utilization Review	⊠Met	□ Not Met
Subp. 11.	Provider Selection and Credentialing	⊠Met	☐ Not Met
Subp. 12.	Qualifications	⊠Met	☐ Not Met
Subp. 13.	Medical Records	⊠Met	□ Not Met

Finding: Delegated Activities

<u>Subp. 6.</u> Minnesota Rules, part 4685.1110, subpart 6, states the HMO must develop and implement review and reporting requirements to assure that the delegated entity performs all delegated activities. The standards and processes established by the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) for delegation are considered the community standard and, as such, were used for the purposes of this examination. The following delegated entities and functions were reviewed.

Delegated Entities and Functions

Entity	UM	QOC	Complaints/ Grievances	Appeals	Cred	Claims	Disease Mgmt	Network	Care Coord
Navitus Health Solutions (PBM)	Х				х	Х		Х	
Delta Dental	Х	Х	×	Х	Х	Х		Х	
Hennepin Health Care					х				Х
TMG						Х			
								_	

Activities

Minnesota Rules, Part 4685.1115

Subparts	Subject	Met	Not Met
Subp. 1.	Ongoing Quality Evaluation	⊠Met	☐ Not Met
Subp. 2.	Scope	⊠Met	☐ Not Met

Quality Evaluation Steps

Minnesota Rules, Part 4685.1120

Subparts	Subject	Met	Not Met
Subp. 1.	Problem Identification	⊠Met	☐ Not Met
Subp. 2.	Problem Selection	⊠Met	☐ Not Met
Subp. 3.	Corrective Action	⊠Met	☐ Not Met
Subp. 4.	Evaluation of Corrective Action	⊠Met	☐ Not Met

Focused Study Steps

Minnesota Rules, Part 4685.1125

Subparts	Subject	Met	Not Met
Subp. 1.	Focused Studies	⊠Met	☐ Not Met
Subp. 2.	Topic Identification and Selections	⊠Met	☐ Not Met

Subparts	Subject	Met	Not Met
Subp. 3.	Study	⊠Met	☐ Not Met
Subp. 4.	Corrective Action	⊠Met	☐ Not Met
Subp. 5.	Other Studies	⊠Met	☐ Not Met

Filed Written Plan and Work Plan

Minnesota Rules, Part 4685.1130

Subparts	Subject	Met	Not Met
Subp. 1.	Written Plan	⊠Met	☐ Not Met
Subp. 2.	Work Plan	⊠Met	☐ Not Met
Subp. 3.	Amendments to Plan	⊠Met	☐ Not Met

Finding: Written Quality Plan (Program Description)

Hennepin Health's 2022 Quality Program Description was reviewed and approved during the course of the exam.

Finding: Provider Selection and Credentialing

<u>Subp. 11</u>. Minnesota Rules, part 4685.1110, subpart 11, states the plan must have policies and procedures for provider selection, credentialing and recredentialing that, at a minimum, are consistent with community standards.

MDH reviewed a total of 80 credentialing, recredentialing, and organizational files as indicated in the table below.

Credentialing File Review

File Source	# Reviewed
Hennepin Health – Initial	
Physicians	18
Allied	20
Hennepin Health - Re-Credential	
Physicians	20
Allied	12
Hennepin Health - Organizational	

File Source	# Reviewed
Initial	5
Re-Credential	5
Total	80

Requirements For Timely Provider Credentialing

Minnesota Statutes, Section 62Q.097

Subdivisions	Subject	Met	Not Met
Subd. 1.	Definitions	⊠Met	□ Not Met
Subd. 2.	Time limit for credentialing determination		
	(1) If application is clean and if clinic/facility requests, notify of date by which determination on app.	⊠Met	□ Not Met
	(2) If app determined not to be clean, inform provider of deficiencies/missing information within three business days	⊠Met	□ Not Met
	(3) Make determination on clean app within 45 days after receiving clean app	⊠Met	□ Not Met
	(4) Health plan allowed 30 additional days to investigate any quality or safety concerns.	⊠Met	□ Not Met

Finding: Credentialing additional 30 days to investigate quality concerns.

Minnesota Statue 62Q.097 Subd. 2 requires the plan that receives an application for provider credentialing, make a determination on the health care providers clean claim within 45 days after receiving the clean application unless the health plan company identifies a substantive quality or safety concern in the course of provider credentialing that requires further investigation. Upon notice to the health care provider, clinic, or facility, the health plan company is allowed 30 additional days to investigate any quality or safety concerns.

Hennepin Health updated its credentialing program to make the clarification recommended by MDH to revise policy to clarify that the ten business days are within the 30 days as specified in statue for credentialing in Minnesota Statue 62Q.097 at the close of the virtual portion of the audit in July 2022. The updated credentialing program was approved by Hennepin Health's Credentialing Committee on August 9, 2022.

Enrollee Advisory Body

Minnesota Statutes, Section 62D.06, Subdivision 2

Section	Subject	Met	Not Met
Subd. 2	Enrollee Input. Governing body shall establish a mechanism to afford the enrollees an opportunity to express their opinions in matters of policy and operation.	⊠Met	□ Not Met

III. Quality of Care

MDH reviewed a total of 12 quality of care grievance and complaint system files.

Quality of Care File Review

File Source	# Reviewed
Quality of Care	
MHCP Grievances	12
Total	12

Quality of Care Complaints

Minnesota Statutes, Section 62D.115

Subparts	pparts Subject		Not Met
Subd. 1.	Definition	⊠Met	☐ Not Met
Subd. 2.	Quality of Care Investigations	⊠Met	☐ Not Met

IV. Grievance Systems

Grievance System

MDH examined Hennepin Health's Minnesota Health Care Programs Managed Care Programs – Managed Care (MHCP-MC) grievance system for compliance with the federal law (42 CFR 438, subpart F) and the DHS 2022 Contract, Article 8.

MDH reviewed a total of 77 grievance system files.

Grievance System File Review

File Source	# Reviewed
Grievances	
Hennepin Health Oral and Written	15
DTRs	
UM Denials	30
Navitus Health Solution Denials	15
Non-Clinical Appeals	
Hennepin Health Oral and Written	3
Clinical Appeals	10
State Fair Hearing	4
Total	77

General Requirements

DHS Contract, Section 8.1

Section	42 CFR	Subject	Met	Not Met
Section 8.1.	§438.402	General Requirements		
Sec. 8.1.1.		Components of Grievance System	⊠Met	☐ Not Met

Internal Grievance Process Requirements

Section	42 CFR	Subject	Met	Not Met
Section 8.2.	§438.408	Internal Grievance Process Requirements		
Section 8.2.1.	§438.402 (c)	Filing Requirements	⊠Met	☐ Not Met

Section	42 CFR	Subject	Met	Not Met
Section 8.2.2.	§438.408 (b)(1), (d)(1)	Timeframe for Resolution of Grievances	⊠Met	□ Not Met
Section 8.2.3.	§438.408 (c)	Timeframe for Extension of Resolution of Grievances	⊠Met	☐ Not Met
Section 8.2.4.	§438.406	Handling of Grievances		
8.2.4.1	§438.406 (b)(1)	Written Acknowledgement	⊠Met	☐ Not Met
8.2.4.2	§438.416	Log of Grievances	⊠Met	☐ Not Met
8.2.4.3	§438.402 (c)(3)	Oral or Written Grievances	⊠Met	☐ Not Met
8.2.4.4	§438.406 (a)	Reasonable Assistance	⊠Met	☐ Not Met
8.2.4.5	§438.406 (b)(2)(i)	Individual Making Decision	⊠Met	☐ Not Met
8.2.4.6	§438.406 (b)(2)(ii)	Appropriate Clinical Expertise	⊠Met	☐ Not Met
Section 8.2.5.	§438.408 (d)(1)	Notice of Disposition of a Grievance		
8.2.5.1	§438.404 (b) §438.406 (a)	Oral Grievances	⊠Met	□ Not Met
8.2.5.2	§438.404 (a), (b)	Written Grievances	⊠Met	☐ Not Met

DTR Notice of Action to Enrollees

Section	42 CFR	Subject	Met	Not Met
Section 8.3.	§438.10 §438.404	DTR Notice of Action to Enrollees		
Section 8.3.1.	§438.10(c), (d) §438.402(c) §438.404(b)	General Requirements	⊠Met	□ Not Met
Section 8.3.2	§438.402 (c), §438.404 (b)	Content of DTR Notice of Action	⊠Met	□ Not Met
8.3.2.1	§438.404	Notice to Provider	⊠Met	☐ Not Met
Section 8.3.3.	§438.404 (c)	Timing of DTR Notice		
8.3.3.1	§431.211	Previously Authorized Services	⊠Met	☐ Not Met
8.3.3.2	§438.404 (c)(2)	Denials of Payment	⊠Met	☐ Not Met
8.3.3.3	§438.210 (c)(d)	Standard Authorizations		
(1)		As expeditiously as the enrollee's health condition requires	⊠Met	☐ Not Met
(2)		To the attending health care professional and hospital by telephone or fax within one working day after making the determination	⊠Met	□ Not Met

Section	42 CFR	Subject	Met	Not Met
(3)		To the provider, enrollee and hospital, in writing, and must include the process to initiate an appeal, within ten (10) business days following receipt of the request for the service, unless the MCO receives an extension of the resolution period	⊠Met	□ Not Met
8.3.3.4	§438.210 (d)(2)(i)	Expedited Authorizations	⊠Met	☐ Not Met
8.3.3.5	§438.210 (d)(1)	Extensions of Time	⊠Met	☐ Not Met
8.3.3.6	§438.210(d)(3) and 42 USC 1396r-8(d)(5)	Covered Outpatient Drug Decisions	⊠Met	□ Not Met
8.3.3.7	§438.210 (d)(1)	Delay in Authorizations	⊠Met	☐ Not Met

Internal Appeals Process Requirements

Section	42 CFR	Subject	Met	Not Met
Section 8.4.	§438.404	Internal Appeals Process Requirements		
Sec. 8.4.1.	§438.402 (b)	One Level Appeal	⊠Met	☐ Not Met
Sec. 8.4.2.	§438.408 (b)	Filing Requirements	⊠Met	☐ Not Met
Sec. 8.4.3.	§438.408	Timeframe for Resolution of Appeals		
8.4.3.1	§438.408 (b)(2)	Standard Appeals	⊠Met	☐ Not Met
8.4.3.2	§438.408 (b)(3)	Expedited Appeals	⊠Met	☐ Not Met
8.4.3.3	§438.408 (c)(3)	Deemed Exhaustion	⊠Met	☐ Not Met
Sec. 8.4.4.	§438.408 (c)	Timeframe for Extension of Resolution of Appeals	⊠Met	☐ Not Met
Sec. 8.4.5.	§438.406	Handling of Appeals		
8.4.5.1	§438.406 (b)(3)	Oral Inquiries	⊠Met	☐ Not Met
8.4.5.2	§438.406 (b)(1)	Written Acknowledgment	⊠Met	☐ Not Met
8.4.5.3	§438.406 (a)	Reasonable Assistance	⊠Met	☐ Not Met
8.4.5.4	§438.406 (b)(2)	Individual Making Decision	⊠Met	☐ Not Met
8.4.5.5	§438.406 (b)(2)	Appropriate Clinical Expertise (See Minnesota Statutes, sections 62M.06, and subd. 3(f) and 62M.09	⊠Met	☐ Not Met
8.4.5.6	§438.406 (b)(4)	Opportunity to Present Evidence	⊠Met	☐ Not Met
8.4.5.7	§438.406 (b)(5)	Opportunity to Examine the Care File	⊠Met	☐ Not Met
8.4.5.8	§438.406 (b)(6)	Parties to the Appeal	⊠Met	☐ Not Met
8.4.5.9	§438.410 (b)	Prohibition of Punitive Action Subsequent Appeals	⊠Met	☐ Not Met
Sec. 8.4.6.		Subsequent Appeals		
Sec. 8.4.7.	§438.408 (d)(2)	Notice of Resolution of Appeals		

Section	42 CFR	Subject	Met	Not Met
8.4.7.1	§438.408 (d)(2)	Written Notice Content	⊠Met	☐ Not Met
8.4.7.2	§438.210 (c)	Appeals of UM Decisions	⊠Met	☐ Not Met
8.4.7.3	§438.410 (c) and .408 (d)(2)(ii)	Telephone Notification of Expedited Appeals (Also see Minnesota Statutes section 62M.06, subd.2)	⊠Met	☐ Not Met
Sec. 8.4.8.	§438.424	Reversed Appeal Resolutions	⊠Met	☐ Not Met
Sec. 8.5.	§438.420 (b)	Continuation of Benefits Pending Appeal or State Appeal	⊠Met	☐ Not Met

State Appeals

Section	42 CFR	Subject	Met	Not Met
Section 8.8.	§438.416 (c)	State Fair Hearings		
Sec. 8.8.2.	§438.408 (f)	Standard Hearing Decisions	⊠Met	☐ Not Met
Sec. 8.8.5.	§438.424	Compliance with State Appeal Resolution	⊠Met	☐ Not Met

V. Access and Availability

Geographic Accessibility

Minnesota Statutes, Section 62D.124

Subdivision	Subject	Met	Not Met
Subd. 1.	Primary Care, Mental Health Services, General Hospital Services	⊠Met	☐ Not Met
Subd. 2.	Other Health Services	⊠Met	☐ Not Met
Subd. 3.	Exception	⊠Met	☐ Not Met

Finding:

Essential Community Providers

Minnesota Statutes, Section 62Q.19

Subdivision	Subject	Met	Not Met
Subd. 3.	Contract with Essential Community Providers	⊠Met	☐ Not Met

Availability and Accessibility

Minnesota Rules, Part 4685.1010

Subparts	Subject	Met	Not Met
Subp. 2.	Basic Services	⊠Met	☐ Not Met
Subp. 5.	Coordination of Care	⊠Met	☐ Not Met
Subp. 6.	Timely Access to Health Care Services	⊠Met	☐ Not Met

<u>Subpart. 2</u> Minnesota Rule, 4685.1010, in coordination with participating providers, shall develop and implement written standards or guidelines that assess the capacity of each provider network to provide timely access to health care services in accordance with subpart 6.

Finding: Basic Services

Following a virtual discussion with MDH, Hennepin Health submitted additional documentation. In previous audit, the plan submitted the 2020 Provider Availability and Access Survey Results document which provided a summary at the end of the document. The 2021 Provider Availability and Access Survey Result document does not. MDH did not receive the documentation that Hennepin Health performed an analysis on what was completed the survey results were received.

Additionally, Hennepin Health shared documentation with MDH during the 2022 Quality Assurance Examination regarding the methods it uses to measure member access and availability to provider appointments. Hennepin Health has also taken additional steps since the audit to improve this area.

Hennepin Health will continue documenting their access and availability analysis and look for new, innovative ways to ensure their members have appropriate access to needed medical and dental services.

Emergency Services

Minnesota Statutes, Section 62Q.55

Subdivision	Subject	Met	Not Met
Subd. 1.	Access to Emergency Services	⊠Met	☐ Not Met
Subd. 2.	Emergency Medical Condition	⊠Met	☐ Not Met

Licensure of Medical Directors

Minnesota Statutes, Section 62Q.121

Section	Subject	Met	Not Met
62Q.121.	Licensure of Medical Directors	⊠Met	☐ Not Met

Coverage of Nonformulary Drugs for Mental Illness and Emotional Disturbance

Minnesota Statutes, Section 62Q.527.

Subdivision	Subject	Met	Not Met
Subd. 2.	Required Coverage for Anti-psychotic Drugs	⊠Met	☐ Not Met
Subd. 3.	Continuing Care	⊠Met	☐ Not Met

Subdivision	Subject	Met	Not Met
Subd. 4.	Exception to Formulary	⊠Met	☐ Not Met

Coverage for Court-Ordered Mental Health Services

Minnesota Statutes, Section 62Q.535

Subdivision	Subject	Met	Not Met
Subd. 2.	Coverage required	⊠Met	☐ Not Met

Continuity of Care

Minnesota Statutes, Section 62Q.56

Subdivision	Subject	Met	Not Met	N/A
Subd. 1.	Change in health care provider, general notification	⊠Met	□ Not Met	
Subd. 1a.	Change in health care provider, termination not for cause	⊠Met	□ Not Met	
Subd. 1b.	Change in health care provider, termination for cause	⊠Met	☐ Not Met	
Subd. 2.	Change in health plans (applies to group, continuation and conversion coverage)	⊠Met	□ Not Met	□ N/A

Section	Subject	Met	Not Met
62M.11.	Complaints to Commerce or Health	⊠Met	☐ Not Met

Minnesota Statutes, Section 62M.12

Section	Subject	Met	Not Met
62M.12.	Prohibition of Inappropriate Incentives	⊠Met	☐ Not Met

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VI. Summary of Findings

Recommendations

1. (None found) *After discussion and submissions with plan. We have no recommendations. Revisions are noted.

Mandatory Improvements

1. (None found)

Deficiencies

1. (None found)