

Medica Health Plan

QUALITY ASSURANCE EXAMINATION - 2023

Final Report

For the Period: July 1, 2020 – March 31, 2023

Examiners:

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As requested by Minnesota Statutes, Section 3.197: This report cost approximately \$125.00 to prepare, including staff time, printing, and mailing expenses.

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MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) conducted a Quality Assurance Examination of Medica 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 Medica 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, Medica should:
(None found)
To address mandatory improvements, Medica and its delegates must:
(None found)
To address deficiencies, Medica 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

History: In 1975, physician members of the Hennepin County Medical Society founded Physicians Health Plan, an open access nonprofit HMO. In 1991 Physicians Health Plan merged with another nonprofit Twin Cities HMO, Share Health Plan, to form Medica. In 1994 Medica merged with HealthSpan to form Allina Health System, which provided both health insurance and health care. Medica became an independent company in 2001.

Medica offers commercial employer-based coverage, Medicare, Medicaid, and individual and family coverage. These coverage options are offered in different states throughout its service area of Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

Membership: Medica self-reported Minnesota enrollment as of March 1, 2023 consisted of the following:

Self-Reported Enrollment

Product	Enrollment
Medicare Advantage	31,447
Minnesota Health Care Programs – Managed Care (MHCP-MC)	
Families & Children	6735
MinnesotaCare	1511
Minnesota Senior Care (MSC+)	5219
Minnesota Senior Health Options (MSHO)	9957
Special Needs Basic Care Medica AccessAbility Solution Enhanced (SNBC D-SNP)	12,753
Total	67,622

1. Examination Dates: May 15 – May 19, 2023

Examination Period: July 1, 2020, to March 31, 2023,
 File Review Period: January 1, 2021, to March 31, 2023

Opening Date: February 1, 2023

 National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA): Medica is accredited by NCQA for its Commercial PPO products based on 2022 standards. The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) evaluated and used results of the NCQA review in one of three ways:

- a. If NCQA standards do not exist or are not as stringent as Minnesota law, the accreditation results were not used in the MDH examination process [No NCQA checkbox].
- b. If the NCQA standard was the same or more stringent than Minnesota law and the health plan was accredited with 100% of the possible points, the NCQA results were accepted as meeting Minnesota requirements [NCQA ☒], unless evidence existed indicating further investigation was warranted [NCQA ☐].
- c. If the NCQA standard was the same or more stringent than Minnesota law, but the plan was accredited with less than 100% of the possible points or MDH identified an opportunity for improvement, MDH conducted its own examination.
- 4. 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.
- 5. 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

Program

Minnesota Rules, Part 4685.1110

Subparts	Subject	Met	Not Met	NCQA
Subp. 1.	Written Quality Assurance Plan	⊠Met	☐ Not Met	
Subp. 2.	Documentation of Responsibility	□Met	☐ Not Met	⊠ NCQA
Subp. 3.	Appointed Entity	□Met	☐ Not Met	⊠ NCQA
Subp. 4.	Physician Participation	□Met	□ Not Met	⊠ NCQA
Subp. 5.	Staff Resources	□Met	□ Not Met	⊠ NCQA
Subp. 6.	Delegated Activities	□Met	☐ Not Met	⊠ NCQA
Subp. 7.	Information System	□Met	□ Not Met	⊠ NCQA
Subp. 8.	Program Evaluation	□Met	☐ Not Met	⊠ NCQA
Subp. 9.	Complaints	⊠Met	□ Not Met	
Subp. 10.	Utilization Review	⊠Met	□ Not Met	
Subp. 11.	Provider Selection and Credentialing Also refer to 62Q.097	□Met	□ Not Met	⊠ NCQA
Subp. 12.	Qualifications	□Met	☐ Not Met	⊠ NCQA
Subp. 13.	Medical Records	⊠Met	☐ Not Met	

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
Altru Health System					Х				
Olmsted Medical Center					Χ				

Entity	UM	QOC	Complaints/ Grievances	Appeals	Cred	Claims	Disease Mgmt	Network	Care Coord
Delta Dental	Х	Χ	X		X	Χ		X	
CentraCare									Χ
Fairview Partners									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
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

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 recognizes the community standard to be NCQA. Medica scored 100% on all date March 15, 2023, NCQA Credentialing/recredentialing standards.

MDH reviewed a total of 51 credentialing and recredentialing files as indicated in the table below.

Credentialing File Review

File Source	# Reviewed
Initial -	
Physicians	12
Allied	13
Re-Credential -	
Physicians	5
Allied	13
Organizational -	
	8
Total	51

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

Enrollee Advisory Body

Minnesota Statutes, Section 62D.06, Subdivision 2

Section	Subject	Met	Not Met
	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 27 quality of care grievance and complaint system files.

Quality of Care File Review

File Source	# Reviewed
Quality of Care	
MHCP Grievances	27
Total	27

Quality of Care Complaints

Minnesota Statutes, Section 62D.115

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

IV. Grievance Systems

Grievance System

MDH examined Medica'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 111 Grievance System files.

Grievance System File Review

File Source	# Reviewed
Grievances	
Medica Written	1
Medica Oral	7
Delta Dental Written	2
Delta Dental Oral	6
DTRs	
Delta Dental	5
ESI	
МВН	8
Medica	8
Mrx	3
Non-Clinical Appeals	
Medica	8
Clinical Appeals	
Delta Dental	8
ESI	8
МВН	8
Medica	8
Mrx	8
ОРН	7
State Fair Hearing	16
Total	111

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

DHS Contract, Section 8.2

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 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

DHS Contract, Section 8.3

Section	42 CFR	Subject	Met	Not Met
Section 8.3.	§438.10 §438.404	DTR Notice of Action to Enrollees		

Section	42 CFR	Subject	Met	Not Met
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 MCO must make a good faith effort to promptly notify the STATE and the Ombudsman for Managed Care if the MCO becomes aware that DTRs are not being issued timely.	⊠Met	□ Not Met
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
(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

DHS Contract, Section 8.4

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

Section	42 CFR	Subject	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 If an Enrollee Appeals a decision from a previous Appeal on the same issue, and the MCO decides to hear it, for purposes of the timeframes for resolution, this will be considered a new Appeal.	⊠Met	□ Not Met
Sec. 8.4.7.	§438.408 (d)(2)	Notice of Resolution of Appeals		
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

DHS Contract, Section 8.8

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. 8.8.3.	§431.250	Costs of State Fair Hearing	⊠Met	☐ Not Met
Sec. 8.8.4.	§438.410(a); 431.224	Expedited Hearing Decisions	⊠Met	☐ Not Met
Sec. 8.8.5.	§438.424	Compliance with State Appeal Resolution	⊠Met	☐ Not Met
Sec. 8.8.5.	§438.424	Compliance with State Appeal Resolution	⊠Met	☐ Not Met
Sec. 8.8.7.	§438.408(f)	External Review or Medical Review Participation	⊠Met	☐ Not Met
Sec. 8.8.8.	§431.245	Judicial Review	⊠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		☐ Not Met
Subd. 3.	Exception	⊠Met	☐ Not Met

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

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
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

VI. Summary of Findings

Recommendations

1. (None Found)

Mandatory Improvements

1. (None Found)

Deficiencies

1. (None Found)