

MANAGED CARE SYSTEMS  
P.O. Box 64882, St. Paul, MN 55164-0882  
Telephone: 651-201-5100  
Email: [health.managedcare@state.mn.us](mailto:health.managedcare@state.mn.us)

## Request for Waiver

Plan Year: 2021

Please ensure that information contained on this waiver request coincides with information provided on the geographical access maps and provider list submitted with this application.

1. Name and Title of Person Submitting this Document:

Carrier	Name Network	Network ID	Network Structure*
HealthPartners Inc (HPI)	CentraChoice SE	MNN004	<select one>
Name	Title	Date	Enrollees in Network*
James Schowalter	Sr Vice President Provider Partnerships	5/27/2020	

2. By submitting this form, the above-referenced confirms:

- A. That person submitting this request has personal knowledge of the network contracting process involved in this submission; and
- B. That access cannot be met for the following provider type(s). Include the county and reason(s) for not meeting the requirements.

Provider Type	County	Reason Code	Notes	Affected Enrollees*	Percent Total Enrollees Affected	Percent Not Covered*	Percent Available Providers Included
Cardiac Surgery	Douglas, Kandiyohi, Todd, Wadena	1	<p>These counties are primarily rural and have small populations. Due to the smaller community size, the hospitals and clinics in these areas don't have the technology or equipment to handle complex procedures or specialized services. Patients have to travel to providers in the larger metropolitan areas where specialty providers work in large facilities where the technology and equipment needed for complex cases are available.</p> <p>There is a limited number of Cardiac Surgery providers in the state; the metropolitan areas of St. Paul/Minneapolis, St. Cloud, Duluth, Moorhead/Fargo/Grand Forks or Sioux Falls, SD, have services available through large care systems and consultations are also available through telemedicine. There are no additional Cardiac Surgery providers available in these counties.</p> <p>The following additional websites were searched for available providers: <a href="http://mhcpproviderdirectory.dhs.state.mn.us/">http://mhcpproviderdirectory.dhs.state.mn.us/</a> and <a href="https://www.medicare.gov/physiciancompany/">https://www.medicare.gov/physiciancompany/</a>. These are websites updated by government sources with frequent data updates so we feel these are good sources for identification of new providers.</p> <p>If new providers are identified, the information is forwarded to the contracting department so they can pursue a contract.</p> <p>HealthPartners communicates routinely with providers through our newsletter every other month with reminders to keep information regarding their locations and providers up to date. Member complaints regarding access to care are monitored on a monthly basis. If trends in complaints regarding access to a particular type of provider are identified, the contracting department is notified and when new providers are identified, a contract is pursued.</p> <p>Gaps will be monitored on a quarterly basis and we will pursue contracts with new providers as they are identified.</p>				
Colon and Rectal Surgery	Douglas, Kandiyohi, Todd, Wadena	1	<p>These counties are primarily rural and have small populations. Due to the smaller community size, the hospitals and clinics in these areas don't have the technology or equipment to handle complex procedures or specialized services. Patients have to travel to providers in the larger metropolitan areas where specialty providers work in large facilities where the technology and equipment needed for complex cases are available.</p> <p>There is a limited number of Colon and Rectal Surgery providers in the state; the metropolitan areas of St. Paul/Minneapolis, St. Cloud, Duluth, Moorhead/Fargo/Grand Forks or Sioux Falls, SD, have services available through large care systems and consultations are also available through telemedicine. There are no additional Colon and Rectal Surgery providers available in these counties.</p> <p>The following additional websites were searched for available providers: <a href="http://mhcpproviderdirectory.dhs.state.mn.us/">http://mhcpproviderdirectory.dhs.state.mn.us/</a> and <a href="https://www.medicare.gov/physiciancompany/">https://www.medicare.gov/physiciancompany/</a>. These are websites updated by government sources with frequent data updates so we feel these are good sources for identification of new providers.</p> <p>If new providers are identified, the information is forwarded to the contracting department so they can pursue a contract.</p> <p>HealthPartners communicates routinely with providers through our newsletter every other month with reminders to keep information regarding their locations and providers up to date. Member complaints regarding access to care are monitored on a monthly basis. If trends in complaints regarding access to a particular type of provider are identified, the contracting department is notified and when new providers are identified, a contract is pursued.</p> <p>Gaps will be monitored on a quarterly basis and we will pursue contracts with new providers as they are identified.</p>				

<p><b>Gastroenterology</b></p>	<p><b>Douglas, Todd, Wadena</b></p>	<p>1</p>	<p>Todd and Wadena counties are in the north central part of the state contain some forests and farms, but are known for their numerous lakes and is a highly utilized recreational area as well. Mostly made up of rural, smaller communities, there are some bigger towns like Brainerd and Grand Rapids. Douglas county is in the west central part of the state which is made up of mainly farms and prairies and are rural, smaller communities that aren't heavily populated with the exception of the Fargo/Moorhead area. HealthPartners contracts with all known providers in these counties. The closest metropolitan area is Saint Cloud for all of these counties. HealthPartners also supports the use of telemedicine in these areas where no providers are physically present.</p> <p>The following websites were searched for additional providers: <a href="http://mhcpproviderdirectory.dhs.state.mn.us/">http://mhcpproviderdirectory.dhs.state.mn.us/</a> and <a href="https://www.medicare.gov/providercompare/">https://www.medicare.gov/providercompare/</a>. These are websites updated by government sources with frequent data updates so we feel these are good sources for identification of new providers. If new providers are identified, the information would be forwarded to the contracting department so new contracts could be pursued.</p> <p>Gaps will be monitored on a quarterly basis and we will pursue contracts with new providers if they are identified.</p>			
<p><b>Genetics</b></p>	<p><b>Douglas, Kandiyohi, Todd, Wadena</b></p>	<p>1</p>	<p>These counties are primarily rural and have small populations. Due to the smaller community size, the hospitals and clinics in these areas don't have the technology or equipment to handle complex procedures or specialized services. Patients have to travel to providers in the larger metropolitan areas where specialty providers work in large facilities where the technology and equipment needed for complex cases are available.</p> <p>There is a limited number of Genetics providers in the state; the metropolitan areas of St. Paul/Minneapolis, St. Cloud, Duluth, Moorhead/Fargo/Grand Forks or Sioux Falls, SD, have services available through large care systems and consultations are also available through telemedicine. There are no additional Genetics providers available in these counties.</p> <p>The following additional websites were searched for available providers: <a href="http://mhcpproviderdirectory.dhs.state.mn.us/">http://mhcpproviderdirectory.dhs.state.mn.us/</a> and <a href="https://www.medicare.gov/physiciancompare/">https://www.medicare.gov/physiciancompare/</a>. These are websites updated by government sources with frequent data updates so we feel these are good sources for identification of new providers.</p> <p>If new providers are identified, the information is forwarded to the contracting department so they can pursue a contract.</p> <p>HealthPartners communicates routinely with providers through our newsletter every other month with reminders to keep information regarding their locations and providers up to date. Member complaints regarding access to care are monitored on a monthly basis. If trends in complaints regarding access to a particular type of provider are identified, the contracting department is notified and when new providers are identified, a contract is pursued.</p> <p>Gaps will be monitored on a quarterly basis and we will pursue contracts with new providers as they are identified.</p>			
<p><b>Reconstructive Surgery</b></p>	<p><b>Douglas</b></p>	<p>1</p>	<p>This county is primarily rural and has a smaller population. Due to the smaller community size, the hospitals and clinics in these areas don't have the technology or equipment to handle complex procedures or specialized services. Patients have to travel to providers in the larger metropolitan areas where specialty providers work in large facilities where the technology and equipment needed for complex cases are available.</p> <p>There is a limited number of Reconstructive Surgery providers in the state; the metropolitan areas of St. Paul/Minneapolis, St. Cloud, Duluth, Moorhead/Fargo/Grand Forks or Sioux Falls, SD, have services available through large care systems and consultations are also available through telemedicine. There are no additional Reconstructive Surgery providers available in this county.</p> <p>The following additional websites were searched for available providers: <a href="http://mhcpproviderdirectory.dhs.state.mn.us/">http://mhcpproviderdirectory.dhs.state.mn.us/</a> and <a href="https://www.medicare.gov/physiciancompare/">https://www.medicare.gov/physiciancompare/</a>. These are websites updated by government sources with frequent data updates so we feel these are good sources for identification of new providers.</p> <p>If new providers are identified, the information is forwarded to the contracting department so they can pursue a contract.</p> <p>HealthPartners communicates routinely with providers through our newsletter every other month with reminders to keep information regarding their locations and providers up to date. Member complaints regarding access to care are monitored on a monthly basis. If trends in complaints regarding access to a particular type of provider are identified, the contracting department is notified and when new providers are identified, a contract is pursued.</p> <p>Gaps will be monitored on a quarterly basis and we will pursue contracts with new providers as they are identified.</p>			

Thoracic Surgery	Douglas, Kandiyohi, Todd, Wadena	1	<p>These counties are primarily rural and have small populations. Due to the smaller community size, the hospitals and clinics in these areas don't have the technology or equipment to handle complex procedures or specialized services. Patients have to travel to providers in the larger metropolitan areas where specialty providers work in large facilities where the technology and equipment needed for complex cases are available.</p> <p>There is a limited number of Thoracic Surgery providers in the state; the metropolitan areas of St. Paul/Minneapolis, St. Cloud, Duluth, Moorhead/Fargo/Grand Forks or Sioux Falls, SD, have services available through large care systems and consultations are also available through telemedicine. There are no additional Thoracic Surgery providers available in these counties.</p> <p>The following additional websites were searched for available providers: <a href="http://mhcpproviderdirectory.dhs.state.mn.us/">http://mhcpproviderdirectory.dhs.state.mn.us/</a> and <a href="https://www.medicare.gov/physiciancompare/">https://www.medicare.gov/physiciancompare/</a>. These are websites updated by government sources with frequent data updates so we feel these are good sources for identification of new providers.</p> <p>If new providers are identified, the information is forwarded to the contracting department so they can pursue a contract.</p> <p>HealthPartners communicates routinely with providers through our newsletter every other month with reminders to keep information regarding their locations and providers up to date. Member complaints regarding access to care are monitored on a monthly basis. If trends in complaints regarding access to a particular type of provider are identified, the contracting department is notified and when new providers are identified, a contract is pursued.</p> <p>Gaps will be monitored on a quarterly basis and we will pursue contracts with new providers as they are identified.</p>				
Vascular Surgery	Douglas, Kandiyohi, Todd, Wadena	1	<p>These counties are primarily rural and have small populations. Due to the smaller community size, the hospitals and clinics in these areas don't have the technology or equipment to handle complex procedures or specialized services. Patients have to travel to providers in the larger metropolitan areas where specialty providers work in large facilities where the technology and equipment needed for complex cases are available.</p> <p>There is a limited number of Vascular Surgery providers in the state; the metropolitan areas of St. Paul/Minneapolis, St. Cloud, Duluth, Moorhead/Fargo/Grand Forks or Sioux Falls, SD, have services available through large care systems and consultations are also available through telemedicine. There are no additional Vascular Surgery providers available in these counties.</p> <p>The following additional websites were searched for available providers: <a href="http://mhcpproviderdirectory.dhs.state.mn.us/">http://mhcpproviderdirectory.dhs.state.mn.us/</a> and <a href="https://www.medicare.gov/physiciancompare/">https://www.medicare.gov/physiciancompare/</a>. These are websites updated by government sources with frequent data updates so we feel these are good sources for identification of new providers.</p> <p>If new providers are identified, the information is forwarded to the contracting department so they can pursue a contract.</p> <p>HealthPartners communicates routinely with providers through our newsletter every other month with reminders to keep information regarding their locations and providers up to date. Member complaints regarding access to care are monitored on a monthly basis. If trends in complaints regarding access to a particular type of provider are identified, the contracting department is notified and when new providers are identified, a contract is pursued.</p> <p>Gaps will be monitored on a quarterly basis and we will pursue contracts with new providers as they are identified.</p>				
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For additional rows, please see the "Additional" tab of this document. DO NOT add rows to this sheet.

For all reason codes, carriers must demonstrate with specific data that geographic access standards cannot be met. Carriers must state what steps were and will be taken to address network inadequacies (MN Statutes § 62K.10, subdivision 5).

**Allowable Waiver Reason Codes and Guidelines for Initial Approval**  
*Applications to waive the requirements in Minnesota Statutes 62K.10 Subd. 2 or 3 must fit one of the following reason codes.*

**Reason Code 1:**

Carrier has conducted a search for providers and determined that, for each county in the plan service area, there are no providers physically present of the type requested in the waiver.

1. Provide a description of physical geography and/or other factors that affect the location of providers (as relevant)
2. Demonstrate consultation of at least two provider directories and/or data sources. Provide a description of the provider directories and/or data sources consulted, including a brief explanation of why the sources are believed to be accurate and complete. Examples of acceptable provider directories and data sources include, but are not limited to:
  - a. [NPPES NPI Registry](#)
  - b. [Medicare Physician Compare](#)
  - c. [Minnesota Health Care Programs Provider Directory](#)
  - d. [Healthgrades](#)
  - e. [SAMHSA Behavioral Health Provider Directories](#)
  - f. [National Institute of Health \(NIH\) U.S. National Library of Medicine MedlinePlus Directories](#)
  - g. Quest Analytics
3. For Primary Care, Pediatric Services (Primary Care), General Hospital and Mental Health provider types:
  - a. State the total number and percentage of estimated enrollees affected in the county not meeting the geographic standard as of the submission date of waiver. Select only one county per line.
  - b. State how access will be provided for this provider type for enrollees of the affected county. For example, does the carrier provide transportation services/vouchers, in-home care options, virtual care services, and/or telemedicine services?
    - i. If telemedicine is used to provide access:
      1. These services must meet the definition of "telemedicine" in Minnesota Statutes [62A.671, subdivision 9](#).
      2. Carrier must describe the extent to which telemedicine services are available
        - a. How many network providers of the impacted provider type have contracts to conduct/provide telemedicine services?
4. Describe how they will assess the availability of providers who begin practice in the service area where the standard cannot currently be met and agree to conduct this assessment quarterly
  - a. Assessment of availability must include consultation of at least two provider directories and/or data sources, as described in item 2, above

**Reason Code 2:**

Provider does not meet carrier's credentialing requirements.

1. Cite the reason(s) provider does not meet credentialing requirements
2. For Primary Care, Pediatric Services (Primary Care), General Hospital, and Mental Health provider types
  - a. State the total number and percentage of estimated enrollees affected in the county not meeting the geographic standard as of the submission date of waiver. Select only one county per line.
3. State how access will be provided for this provider type for enrollees of the affected county. For example, does the carrier allow enrollees to receive out-of-network care at in-network rates, provide transportation services/vouchers, in-home care options, virtual care services, and/or telemedicine services?
  - i. If telemedicine is used to provide access:
    1. These services must meet the definition of "telemedicine" in Minnesota Statutes [62A.671, subdivision 9](#).
    2. Carrier must describe the extent to which telemedicine services are available
      - a. How many network providers of the impacted provider type have contracts to conduct/provide telemedicine services?

**Reason Code 3:**

Carrier has made a good faith effort to contract with provider and provider has refused to accept a contract.

1. Cite the reason(s) provider states for refusing a contract
2. For Primary Care, Pediatric Services (Primary Care), General Hospital and Mental Health provider types
  - a. State the total number and percentage of estimated enrollees affected in the county not meeting the geographic standard as of the submission date of waiver. Select only one county per line.
3. State how access will be provided for this provider type for enrollees of the affected county. For example, does the carrier allow enrollees to receive out-of-network care at in-network rates, provide transportation services/vouchers, in-home care options, virtual care services, and/or telemedicine services?
  - i. If telemedicine is used to provide access:
    1. These services must meet the definition of "telemedicine" in Minnesota Statutes [62A.671, subdivision 9](#).
    2. Carrier must describe the extent to which telemedicine services are available
      - a. How many network providers of the impacted provider type have contracts to conduct/provide telemedicine services?

**Reason Code 4:**

Network is an Accountable Care Organization (ACO) or Narrow Network.

1. Specify the network structure: Accountable Care Organization (ACO) or Narrow Network
  - a. If the network is an ACO, provide a brief description of the major health systems participating in the network
  - b. If the network is a narrow network, describe the features of the network that restrict access
  - c. For both ACOs and Narrow Networks, state what percentage of available Primary Care, Pediatric Services (Primary Care), General Hospital, and Mental Health providers are included in the county and of the provider type for which a waiver is requested
2. State what, if any, steps are taken to inform enrollees of restricted access
3. State the total number of estimated enrollees in the network as of the submission date of the waiver
4. State why the geographic access standards cannot be met. Explain why full geographic access is not possible with this network design
5. State how access will be provided for this provider type for the enrollees of the affected county. For example, does the carrier allow enrollees to receive out-of-network care at in-network rates, provide transportation services/vouchers, in-home care options, virtual care services, and/or telemedicine services?
  - i. If telemedicine is used to provide access:

1. These services must meet the definition of "telemedicine" in Minnesota Statutes [62A.671, subdivision 9](#)
  2. Carrier must describe the extent to which telemedicine services are available
    - a. How many network providers of the impacted provider type have contracts to conduct/provide telemedicine services?
6. For Primary Care, Pediatric Services (Primary Care), General Hospital and Mental Health provider types,
- a. State the total number and percentage of estimated enrollees affected in the county not meeting the geographic standard as of the submission date of waiver. Select only one county per line.
  - b. State the estimated percentage of area in that county that is not covered

**Attestation for the Request for Waiver**

The undersigned attests that he/she is a representative of the carrier with personal knowledge of the network and reasons for the above waiver requests, and that the waiver requests meet the requirements for the waiver, as outlined above. The undersigned also attests that good faith efforts have been made to locate and contract with providers, as outlined above, and that if providers become available in the service area, carrier will make a good faith effort to contract with said providers.



James Schowalter, HealthPartners, Sr Vice President Provider Partnerships  
Name, Company, Title

05/27/20  
Date Attestation Signed