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MANAGED CARE SYSTEMS
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Request for Waiver

Plan Year: 2019

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

1. Name and Title of Person Submitting this Document:

Carrier	Name Network	Network ID
Blue Plus	Blue Plus Western MN Network	MNN004
Name	Title	Date
Bridget Schenten	Network Innovations Consultant	9/12/2018

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
Cardiac Surgery	Cass, Douglas, Kandiyohi, Marshall, Otter Tail, Pennington, Polk, Pope, Red Lake, Renville, Wadena	4	This network is an ACO and has a contract with a set of providers, which prevents Blue Cross from adding competing providers. A waiver is requested due to a competing specialty provider found in the area. However, this network does have in-network physicians in southern Beltrami and Murray counties for members to access in-network care.
Chemical Dependency Inpatient	Beltrami, Marshall	4	This network is an ACO and has a contract with a set of providers, which prevents Blue Cross from adding competing providers. A waiver is requested due to a competing Chemical Dependency provider found in the area. There are facilities available in Polk and south Beltrami counties for the member to seek in-network care.
Colon and Rectal Surgery	Becker, Beltrami, Big Stone, Cass, Clearwater, Hubbard, Jackson, Mahnomom, Marshall, Nobles, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake, Traverse	1	Based on a review of internal records and the online directories (between June 1-4 of 2018) of several partner organizations including Altru Health System, Avera Health, Essentia Health, Sanford Health and St. Luke's Healthcare System who have a presence in or near the listed counties, as well as independent providers serving these counties, no colorectal surgeons are available to cover 100% of these areas. As a result, waivers are requested. On at most a bi-annual basis we will continue to assess network adequacy as new providers become available. Market providers will be approached in the summer of 2018 to determine whether telemedicine, outreach clinics, or mobile health providers offer feasible, cost-effective solutions for filling these network gaps.

Colon and Rectal Surgery	<i>Grant,Nobles,Otter Tail,Traverse,Wadena,Wilkin</i>	4	This network is an ACO and has a contract with a set of providers, which prevents Blue Cross from adding competing providers. A waiver is requested due to a competing specialty provider found in the area. Members have in-network access to care in Clay, Kandiohi, Lyon, Redwood counties in Minnesota or Minnehaha county in South Dakota due to the limited number of Colon & Rectal Specialists in the State of Minnesota.
Dermatology	<i>Jackson,Nobles,Beltrami</i>	4	This network is an ACO and has a contract with a set of providers, which prevents Blue Cross from adding competing providers. A waiver is requested due to a competing specialty provider found in the area. There are clinics available in the Beltrami county for the member to seek care. This county has a 1-5 mile section that does not meet adequacy. For Nobles and Jackson counties there are other in-network providers that can be accessed in Minnehaha county, South Dakota.
Endocrinology	<i>Big Stone</i>	1	Based on a review of internal records and the online directories (between June 1-4 of 2018) of several partner organizations including Kittson Memorial Healthcare, Rainy Lake Medical Center, Littlefork Medical Center, Lakewood Health System, St. Luke's Health Care System and Cook County North Shore Hospital, no endocrinologists are available to cover 100% of these areas. As a result, waivers are requested for the listed counties. On at most a bi-annual basis we will continue to assess network adequacy as new providers become available. Market providers will be approached in the summer of 2018 to determine whether telemedicine, outreach clinics, or mobile health providers offer feasible, cost-effective solutions for filling these network gaps.
Endocrinology	<i>Cass,Marshall</i>	4	This network is an ACO and has a contract with a set of providers, which prevents Blue Cross from adding competing providers. A waiver is requested due to a competing specialty provider found in the area. In-network care can be accessed in Beltrami or Otter Tail counties.
Gastroenterology	<i>Cass,Douglas,Grant,Otter Tail,Wadena</i>	4	This network is an ACO and has a contract with a set of providers, which prevents Blue Cross from adding competing providers. A waiver is requested due to a competing specialty provider found in the area. In-network care can be accessed in Clay, Beltrami or Big Stone counties.
Genetics	<i>Becker,Beltrami,Big Stone,Cass,Chippewa,Clearwater,Cottonwood,Douglas,Gran,Hubbard,Kandiyohi,Lac Qui Parle,Lincoln,Lyon,Mahnomen,Marshall,Murray,Otter Tail,Pennington,Polk,Pope,Red Lake,Redwood,Renville,Stevens,Swift,Traverse,Wadena,Wilkin,Yellow Medicine,Jackson,Nobles</i>	1	Based on a review of internal records and the online directories (between June 1-4 of 2018) of several partner organizations including Allina Health, Altru Health System, Avera Health, CentraCare Health, Essentia Health, Fairview Health Services, Mayo Clinic Health System, Sanford Health and St. Luke's Healthcare System who have a presence in or near the listed counties, as well as independent providers serving these counties, no genetics specialists are available to cover 100% of these areas. As a result, waivers are requested. On at most a bi-annual basis we will continue to assess network adequacy as new providers become available. Market providers will be approached in the summer of 2018 to determine whether telemedicine, outreach clinics, or mobile health providers offer feasible, cost-effective solutions for filling these network gaps.
Genetics	<i>Cass,Douglas,Kandiyohi,Pope,Renville,Swift</i>	4	This network is and ACO and has a contract with a set of providers, which prevents Blue Cross from adding competing providers. A waiver is requested due to a competing specialty provider found in the area. Members have in-network access to care in the Fargo, ND and Sioux Falls, SD areas due to the limited number of Genetics Specialists in the State of Minnesota.
Mental health providers	<i>Beltrami,Marshall,Traverse</i>	1	Based on a review of internal records and the online directories (between June 1-4 of 2018) of several partner organizations including Altru Health System, Essentia, Sanford Health and St. Luke's Health Care System, no mental health specialists are available to cover 100% of these areas. As a result, waivers are requested for the listed counties. On at most a bi-annual basis we will continue to assess network adequacy as new providers become available. Market providers will be approached in the summer of 2018 to determine whether telemedicine, outreach clinics, or mobile health providers offer feasible, cost-effective solutions for filling these network gaps.
Mental health providers	<i>Beltrami,Marshall</i>	4	This network is and ACO and has a contract with a set of providers, which prevents Blue Cross from adding competing providers. A waiver is requested due to a competing mental health provider found in the area. There are clinics available in the Beltrami and Pennington counties for the member to seek in-network care.
Neurology and Neurological Surgery	<i>Beltrami,Cass,Traverse</i>	4	This network is an ACO and has a contract with a set of providers, which prevents Blue Cross from adding competing providers. A waiver is requested due to a competing specialty provider found in the area. In-network care is accessed from adjacent counties. Members can access in-network care in either Beltrami, Becker or Douglas counties.

Otolaryngology	Cass	4	This network is an ACO and has a contract with a set of providers, which prevents Blue Cross from adding competing providers. A waiver is requested due to a competing specialty provider found in the area. Members can access the in-network specialists in either Beltrami, Otter Tail or Douglas counties.
Pediatric Services Providers	Beltrami, Big Stone, Marshall, Traverse	1	Based on a review of internal records and the online directories (between June 1-4 of 2018) of several partner organizations including Allina Health, Altru Health System, Essentia Health, Sanford Health and St. Luke's Healthcare System, no pediatricians are available to cover 100% of these areas. As a result, waivers are requested for the listed counties. On at most a bi-annual basis we will continue to assess network adequacy as new providers become available. Market providers will be approached in the summer of 2018 to determine whether telemedicine, outreach clinics, or mobile health providers offer feasible, cost-effective solutions for filling these network gaps.
Pediatric Services Providers	Beltrami, Lac Qui Parle, Marshall, Renville, Cass	4	This network is an ACO and has a contract with a set of providers, which prevents Blue Cross from adding competing providers. A waiver is requested due to a competing specialty provider found in the area. Members can access the in-network specialists in Beltrami, Swift, Kandiyohi, Yellow Medicine and Redwood counties.
Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and Occupational Medicine	Cass, Traverse	4	This network is an ACO and has a contract with a set of providers, which prevents Blue Cross from adding competing providers. A waiver is requested due to a competing specialty provider found in the area. Cass County does not have any Specialists that meet the Specialists criteria for adequacy with any of our networks. In-network care is accessed from adjacent counties. Members can access the in-network specialists in either Beltrami, Wadena or Todd counties. Traverse County does not have any Specialists that meet the Specialists criteria for adequacy with any of our networks. In-network care is accessed from adjacent counties. The area not meeting access is approximately 5 miles of the county. These members can access in-network care in either Douglas, Otter Tail or Swift counties.
Primary Care providers	Beltrami, Marshall	1	Based on a review of internal records and the online directories (between June 1-4 of 2018) of several partner organizations including Cook County North Shore Hospital, Kittson Memorial Healthcare Center, Essentia Health, St. Luke's Healthcare System, Rainy Lake Medical Center and Fairview Health, no primary care practitioners are available to cover 100% of these areas. As a result, waivers are requested for the listed counties. On at most a bi-annual basis we will continue to assess network adequacy as new providers become available. Market providers will be approached in the summer of 2018 to determine whether telemedicine, outreach clinics, or mobile health providers offer feasible, cost-effective solutions for filling these network gaps.
Primary Care providers	Beltrami, Cass, Marshall	4	This network is an ACO and has a contract with a set of providers, which prevents Blue Cross from adding competing providers. A waiver is requested due to a competing specialty provider found in the area. There are clinics available in the county for the member to seek care. Only a small portion of Marshall and Cass counties do not meet adequacy. Members can access in-network care in Beltrami, Marshall, Pennington, Red Lake, Clearwater, Hubbard, Cass and Wadena counties.
Pulmonary Disease	Cass	4	This network is an ACO and has a contract with a set of providers, which prevents Blue Cross from adding competing providers. A waiver is requested due to a competing specialty provider found in the area. Only a small portion of Marshall and Cass counties do not meet adequacy. Members can access in-network care in Beltrami, Polk, Becker and Wadena counties.
Radiology and Nuclear Medicine	Beltrami	4	This network is an ACO and has a contract with a set of providers, which prevents Blue Cross from adding competing providers. A waiver is requested due to a competing specialty provider found in the area. Only a small portion of Beltrami county does not meet adequacy. Members can access in-network care in southern Beltrami and Pennington counties.
Reconstructive Surgery	Cass, Marshall, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake	4	This network is an ACO and has a contract with a set of providers, which prevents Blue Cross from adding competing providers. A waiver is requested due to a competing specialty provider found in the area. Members have in-network access to care in neighboring Beltrami county due to the limited number of Reconstructive Surgery Specialists in the State of Minnesota.
Thoracic Surgery	Becker, Beltrami, Big Stone, Chippewa, Douglas, Grant, Kandiyohi, Lac Qui Parle, Marshall, Otter Tail, Pennington, Pope, Renville, Stevens, Swift, Traverse, Yellow Medicine, Wilkin	1	Based on a review of internal records and the online directories (between June 1-4 of 2018) of several partner organizations including Allina Health, Altru Health System, Avera Health, CentraCare Health, Essentia Health, Fairview Health Services, Mayo Clinic Health System, Sanford Health and St. Luke's Healthcare System who have a presence in or near the listed counties, as well as independent providers serving these counties, no thoracic surgeons are available to cover 100% of these areas. As a result, waivers are requested. On at most a bi-annual basis we will continue to assess network adequacy as new providers become available. Market providers will be approached in the summer of 2018 to determine whether telemedicine, outreach clinics, or mobile health providers offer feasible, cost-effective solutions for filling these network gaps.

Please use additional sheet if needed

As part of this waiver request for all reason codes, a carrier must demonstrate with specific data that the geographic access standards cannot be met in a particular service area or part of a service area and also state what steps were and will be taken to address the network inadequacy (MN Statutes § 62K.10, subdivision 5).

Reason Codes:

1. Carrier has conducted a good faith search for providers and determined that there are no providers physically present in the service area of the type requested in the waiver. MDH will not grant a waiver for this reason code unless the carrier demonstrates, with specific information, that there are no providers physically present in the part(s) of the service area for which the waiver is sought. Specific information may include provider directories and sources consulted, physical geography that affects the location of providers, or other information that affects the availability and location of providers. Telemedicine may be used as a means to provide access when there are no providers physically present to meet the standard. The carrier should describe how it will assess the availability of providers who begin practice in the service area where the standard cannot currently be met.
2. Provider does not meet carrier's credentialing requirements. Carrier must cite the reason(s) provider does not meet carrier's credentialing requirements.
3. Carrier has made a good faith effort to contract with provider ~~and offered a contract at the same/similar rate as other providers of the same provider type in the network~~, and provider has refused to accept a contract. A carrier representative must attest, below, that a contract was offered ~~at same/similar rates~~ and provider refused to contract. *BMS* *BMS*
4. Other: Please describe why geographic access standards cannot be met. Please also describe how access will be provided for this provider type for the residents of the affected county or counties.

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 ~~at same or similar rates as other providers of the same type in carrier's network~~. *BMS*

Bridget Schenten, Blue Cross Blue Shield MN, Network Innovation Consultant

September 12, 2018

Name, Company, Title

Date Attestation Signed

Provider Type	County	Reason Code	Notes
<i>Thoracic Surgery</i>	<i>Cass,Douglas,Kandiyohi,Mars hall,Pennington,Red Lake,Renville,Otter Tail,Wadena,Polk,Pope</i>	4	This network is an ACO and has a contract with a set of providers, which prevents Blue Cross from adding competing providers. A waiver is requested due to a competing specialty provider found in the area. Members have in-network access to care in Beltrami county, Fargo,ND, Thief River Falls, MN and Sioux Falls, SD locations due to the limited number of Thoracic Specialists in the State of Minnesota.
<i>Urology</i>	<i>Beltrami</i>	4	This network is an ACO and has a contract with a set of providers, which prevents Blue Cross from adding competing providers. A waiver is requested due to a competing specialty provider found in the area. Beltrami County does have a specialist accessible in this county. Cass County does not have any Specialists that meet the Specialists criteria for adequacy in this network; however, this network does have in-network physicians in Beltrami or Polk counties for members to access in-network care.
<i>Vascular Surgery</i>	<i>Beltrami,Cass,Kandiyohi,Renville</i>	4	This network is an ACO and has a contract with a set of providers, which prevents Blue Cross from adding competing providers. A waiver is requested due to a competing specialty provider found in the area. Beltrami County does have a specialist accessible in this county. Cass County does not have any Specialists that meet the Specialists criteria for adequacy in this network; however, this network does have many in-network physicians in Beltrami, Becker or Douglas counties for members to access in-network care.
<i>Gastroenterology</i>	<i>Otter Tail</i>	1	Based on a review of internal records and the online directories (between June 1-4 of 2018) of several partner organizations including Cook County North Shore Hospital, Kittson Memorial Healthcare Center, Essentia Health, and Rainy Lake Medical Center, no gastroenterologists are available to cover 100% of these areas. As a result, waivers are requested for the listed counties. On at most a bi-annual basis we will continue to assess network adequacy as new providers become available. Market providers will be approached in the summer of 2018 to determine whether telemedicine, outreach clinics, or mobile health providers offer feasible, cost-effective solutions for filling these network gaps.
<i>Pulmonary Disease</i>	<i>Beltrami,Marshall</i>	1	Based on a review of internal records and the online directories (between June 1-4 of 2018) of several partner organizations including Altru Health System, Lifecare Medical Center and Avera Health, no pulmonologists are available to cover 100% of these areas. As a result, waivers are requested for the listed counties. On at most a bi-annual basis we will continue to assess network adequacy as new providers become available. Market providers will be approached in the summer of 2018 to determine whether telemedicine, outreach clinics, or mobile health providers offer feasible, cost-effective solutions for filling these network gaps.
<i>Cardiac Surgery</i>	<i>Becker,Beltrami,Big Stone,Chippewa,Douglas,Grant ,Kandiyohi,Lac Qui Parle,Marshall,Otter Tail,Pennington,Pope,Renvill,Stevens,Swift,Traverse,Wilkin,Yellow Medicine</i>	1	Based on a review of internal records and the online directories (between June 1-4 of 2018) of several partner organizations including Allina Health, Altru Health System, Avera Health, CentraCare Health, Essentia Health, Fairview Health Services, Mayo Clinic Health System, Sanford Health and St. Luke's Healthcare System who have a presence in or near the listed counties, as well as independent providers serving these counties, no cardiac surgeons are available to cover 100% of these areas. As a result, waivers are requested for the listed counties. On at most a bi-annual basis we will continue to assess network adequacy as new providers become available. Market providers will be approached in the summer of 2018 to determine whether telemedicine, outreach clinics, or mobile health providers offer feasible, cost-effective solutions for filling these network gaps.
<i>Pediatric Dental Care</i>	<i>Beltrami,Marshall,Polk,Norman</i>	4	This network is an ACO and has a contract with a set of providers, which prevents Blue Cross from adding competing providers. A waiver is requested due to a competing specialty provider found in the area. Beltrami County does have a specialist accessible in this county. Members have in-network access to care in Beltrami, Clearwater, and Pennington counties.
<i>General Hospital facilities</i>	<i>Becker,Beltrami,Cass,Hubbard</i>	4	This network is an ACO and has a contract with a set of providers, which prevents Blue Cross from adding competing providers. A waiver is requested due to a competing specialty provider found in the area. Beltrami County does have a facility accessible in this county. Members have in-network access to care in Beltrami, Clearwater, and Otter Tail counties.

<p align="center">General Hospital facilities</p>	<p align="center">Beltrami,Cass,Marshall</p>	<p align="center">1</p>	<p>Based on a review of internal records and the online directories (between June 1-4 of 2018) of several partner organizations including Allina Health, Altru Health System, Avera Health, CentraCare Health, Essentia Health, Fairview Health Services, Mayo Clinic Health System, Sanford Health and St. Luke's Healthcare System who have a presence in or near the listed counties, no general hospital facilities are available to cover 100% of these areas. As a result, waivers are requested for the listed counties.</p> <p>On at most a bi-annual basis we will continue to assess network adequacy as new providers become available. Market providers will be approached in the summer of 2018 to determine whether telemedicine, outreach clinics, or mobile health providers offer feasible, cost-effective solutions for filling these network gaps.</p>
<p align="center">Anesthesiology Physicians and Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists</p>	<p align="center">Beltrami</p>	<p align="center">1</p>	<p>Based on a review of internal records and the online directories (August 13, 2018) of several partner organizations including Allina Health, Altru Health System, Avera Health, CentraCare Health, Essentia Health, Fairview Health Services, Mayo Clinic Health System, Sanford Health and St. Luke's Healthcare System who have a presence in or near the listed counties, no anesthesiology physicians or certified registered nurse anesthetists are available to cover 100% of these areas. As a result, waivers are requested for the listed counties.</p> <p>On at most a bi-annual basis we will continue to assess network adequacy as new providers become available. Market providers will be approached in the summer of 2018 to determine whether telemedicine, outreach clinics, or mobile health providers offer feasible, cost-effective solutions for filling these network gaps.</p>
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