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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: 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 Southeast MN Network	MNN007
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	Faribault, Martin, Nicollet, Watonwan	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.
Colon and Rectal Surgery	Faribault, Houston, Martin, Nicollet, Watonwan	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.



Genetics	Blue Earth, Faribault, Martin, Watonwan	1	<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, 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.</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>
Genetics	Le Sueur, Nicollet	4	<p>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 county providers. Members can access the in-network specialists in Olmsted county.</p>
Thoracic Surgery	Faribault, Martin, Nicollet, Watonwan	1	<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, 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.</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>
Vascular Surgery	Houston, Martin, Nicollet, Watonwan, Faribault	1	<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, as well as independent providers serving these counties, no vascular surgeons are available to cover 100% of these areas. As a result, waivers are requested.</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>
General Hospital facilities	Fillmore	1	<p>Based on a review of internal records and the online directories (between July 20-27 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 hospitals are available to cover 100% of these areas. As a result, waivers are requested.</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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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:**

- 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.
- Provider does not meet carrier's credentialing requirements. Carrier must cite the reason(s) provider does not meet carrier's credentialing requirements.
- Carrier has made a good faith effort to contract with provider and offered a contract at the same/similar rate as other providers *BMS* 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*
- 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

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Date Attestation Signed

