



HFS

**Illinois Department of
Healthcare and Family Services**

JB Pritzker, Governor
Elizabeth M. Whitehorn, Director

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March 26, 2026

Cristal Gary, CEO
Meridian Healthcare

RE: Meridian HCI Untimely DSH Exam Contact Ad-Hoc Sanction

Dear Ms. Gary:

This letter serves as written notification to Meridian Health Plan Inc (Meridian) of sanction pursuant to Section 7.16.3 of the Contract for Furnishing Health Services by a Managed Care Organization between the Department of Healthcare and Family Services ("Department") and Meridian.

Meridian failed to timely respond to the Department's ad-hoc request issued on Tuesday, January 13, 2026, at 9:35 AM, under the email titled "MCO ACCT MGR ACTION: SFY 2023 Myers and Stauffer (DSH Exam) - 1) MCO Contact due 01.21.26 & 2) MCO Data Due 02.11.26". This ad-hoc request required Meridian to provide an MCO contact (Name and email) by close of business Tuesday, January 21, 2026. Meridian did not reply until Friday, January 23, 2026, and did not request an extension to the due date. As such, the Department is sanctioning Meridian \$5,000. Meridian is to issue an electronic payment to the Department, by either ACH or Wire Transfer, no later than Friday, April 24, 2026. The electronic payment shall include the following fields for payment identification and tracking purposes by the Department:

ORIG CO NAME: Meridian Health Plan Inc
ORIG ID: XXXXXXXXX
ENTRY DESCR: this is to be left blank
ENTRY CLASS: CCD
TRACE NO: Bank Information
ENTRY DATE: yymmdd
IND ID NO: Bank Information
IND NAME: Meridian Health Plan Inc
REMARK: HCI DSH Contact Ad-Hoc Sanction
ORIG BANK: Bank Name

*The information highlighted in yellow is specific to the Department and payment detail requirements, and shall not be changed or modified by the MCO.

*The information in gray is the banking information.

If you have any questions regarding this notification, please contact your HFS Account Management team Jessica Pickens at Jessica.Pickens@illinois.gov, or Stephanie Hunter at Stephanie.Hunter2@illinois.gov.

Sincerely,

Helena Lefkow, Deputy Administrator, Managed Care Performance
Division of Medical Programs

cc: Daniel Rich, Ryan Litteken, Bob Miromonti, Keshonna Lones, Jessica Pickens, Stephanie Hunter, Amy Roberts, Rich Allen, and Adam Lewis