



HFS

**Illinois Department of
Healthcare and Family Services**

JB Pritzker, Governor
Elizabeth M. Whitehorn, Director

201 South Grand Avenue East, Springfield, Illinois 62763
Telephone: +1 217-782-1200, TTY: +1 800-526-5812



March 26, 2026

Cristal Gary, CEO
Meridian Healthcare

RE: Meridian HCI Untimely HB 4203 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 respond timely to the Department's ad-hoc request issued on Monday, January 12, 2026, at 11:30 AM, under the email titled "URGENT ALL MCO ACCT MGR ACTION: HB 4203 - RESPONSE DUE 12PM TOMORROW 01.13.26" and subsequent email issued on Monday, January 12, 2026 at 5:06 PM titled "extension granted: URGENT ALL MCO ACCT MGR ACTION: HB 4203 - RESPONSE DUE 12pm CST, Tuesday, January 20, 2026". This ad-hoc request required Meridian to confirm by Tuesday, January 20, 2026, at 12:00 pm, if any increased costs will be incurred by the health plans if HB4203 is signed into law. Meridian requested additional information on Tuesday, January 20, 2026, at 11:55 am, but did not request an extension to the report due date. Meridian's subsequent response was received on Friday, January 23, 2026. 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 HB4203 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