



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



May 01, 2026

Cristal Gary, CEO
Meridian Healthcare

RE: Meridian HCI Untimely BMCH 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 Thursday, April 9, 2026, at 9:29 AM, under the email titled "HCI MCO ACCT MGR ACTION: Request for Maternal and Child Health Program POC, Policies, and Fact Sheet - Due COB 04.15.26". This ad-hoc request required Meridian to provide by close of business Wednesday, April 15, 2026, a designated BMCH point of contact, provide a description of MCO BMCH policies and procedures, and provide an informational fact sheet for BMCH providers. Meridian did not respond by COB, April 15, 2026, and did not request an extension to the report due date. Meridian's response was received on Thursday, April 16, 2026, at 3:55pm. 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, May 29, 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: XXXXXXXXXX

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 BMCH Ad Hoc

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, Steve Berry, Katie Barbara, Keshonna Lones, Jessica Pickens, Stephanie Hunter, Amy Roberts, Rich Allen, and Adam Lewis