



HFS
Illinois Department of
Healthcare and Family Services

JB Pritzker, Governor
Elizabeth M. Whitehorn, Director

201 South Grand Avenue East, Springfield, Illinois 62763
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March 2, 2026

Cristal Gary, CEO
Meridian Healthcare

RE: Meridian HCI Untimely IKN Data Confirmation 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 Tuesday, January 6, 2026, at 4:00 PM, under the email title of "HCI & YC MCO ACCT MGR ACTION: IKN Data Submission Deadline Reminder – Due no later than COB Feb 4, 2026". This ad-hoc request required Meridian to review the IKN data submission reminder, ensure all data is submitted timely, and shall provide an email to confirm that this request has been completed, to the HFS.AMrequests inbox, your BMC Account Manager, and Bradley Ray, no later than COB, February 4, 2026. Meridian did not respond to the HFS.AMrequests inbox for this ad-Hoc request on or before COB February 4, 2026, and Meridian did not request an extension to the ad-hoc request 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, March 27, 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 Ad-Hoc IKN Data 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