



HFS

**Illinois Department of
Healthcare and Family Services**

JB Pritzker, Governor
Elizabeth M. Whitehorn, Director

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May 15, 2026

Cristal Gary, CEO
Meridian Healthcare

RE: Meridian HCI Sickle Cell 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, April 27, 2026, at 5:48 PM, under the email titled "Due Noon 4.28.26. RE: MERIDIAN - ALL MCO ACCT MGR ACTION: 2024 MCO Sickle Cell Disease Reporting - Follow-Up Questions Due COB 04.07.26". Meridian was required to approve or deny the Department's request to publish previously submitted Sickle Cell data. Meridian did not respond by noon, Tuesday, April 28, 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, June 12, 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 Sickle Cell 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, Steve Berry, Katie Barbara, Keshonna Lones, Jessica Pickens, Stephanie Hunter, Amy Roberts, Rich Allen, and Adam Lewis