



**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 2, 2026

Cristal Gary, CEO  
Meridian Healthcare

**RE: Meridian YC Untimely IKN Data Confirmation Ad-Hoc Sanction**

Dear Ms. Gary:

This letter serves as written notification to YouthCare Health Plan (“YouthCare”) of sanction pursuant to Section 7.16.3 of the Contract for Furnishing Health Services by a Managed Care Organization through the DCFS Youth Managed Care Specialty Plan (“contract”) between the Department of Healthcare and Family Services (“Department”) and YouthCare.

YouthCare 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 YouthCare 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. YouthCare did not respond to the HFS.AMrequests inbox for this ad-Hoc request on or before COB February 4, 2026, and YouthCare did not request an extension to the ad-hoc request due date. As such, the Department is sanctioning YouthCare \$5,000. YouthCare 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: YC 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](mailto:Jessica.Pickens@illinois.gov), or Stephanie Hunter at [Stephanie.Hunter2@illinois.gov](mailto: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