

Health Regulation Division Managed Care Systems Section

Final Report

Itasca Medical Care

Quality Assurance Examination For the Period:

August 1, 2012 through July 31, 2015

Issue Date: December 23, 2015

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Minnesota Department of Health Executive Summary

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) conducted a Quality Assurance Examination of Itasca Medical Care (IMCare) to determine whether it is operating in accordance with Minnesota law. Our mission is to protect, maintain and improve the health of all Minnesotans. MDH has found that IMCare is compliant with Minnesota and federal law, and as such, MDH found no "Deficiencies" or "Mandatory Improvements". "Deficiencies" are violations of law. "Mandatory Improvements" are required corrections that must be made to non-compliant policies, documents or procedures where evidence of actual compliance is found or where the file sample did not include any instances of the specific issue of concern. The "Recommendations" listed are areas where, although compliant with law, MDH identified improvement opportunities.

To address recommendations, IMCare should:

Revise the written quality plan as follows:

- Include in the quality evaluation section IMCare's quality evaluation focus that could include a trending of measures for the quality activities, an analysis and evaluation of the overall effectiveness of its quality program and to whom does it get reported and approved; and
- Expand the area of utilization management to include more specifics regarding IMCare's utilization
 management program and reporting relationships. Include more tables and or graphs (or both)
 especially in its quality evaluation, especially in summarizing its performance improvement projects.
 IMCare should also reorganize the evaluation to include all the utilization management activities
 together under one section with a summary of the overall effectiveness of utilization management
 program.

To address mandatory improvements, IMCare and its delegates must:

There are no mandatory improvements that IMCare must address.

To address deficiencies, IMCare and its delegates must:

There are no deficiencies that IMCare must address.

This report including these recommendations is approved and adopted by the Minnesota Commissioner of Health pursuant to authority in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 62D.

Darcy Miner, Director

Date

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I. Introduction

History: The Itasca Medical Care (IMCare) program was established in 1982 as a collaborative effort involving the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS), Itasca County and the local community providers. IMCare began providing health care coverage for Itasca County residents eligible to receive services under the Minnesota General Assistance Medical Care program. IMCare was the first Medicaid Managed Care organization in the state and one of the first such organizations in the country.

In 1985, Public Law 99-272, The Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 gave Itasca County federal authority to contract as a Managed Care entity. In 1985, IMCare expanded to include the Medical Assistance program and in 1996 further extended coverage to include MinnesotaCare. In 2005 IMCare brought on the Minnesota Senior Care Plus population. Finally, the Medicare population, Minnesota Senior Health Options (MSHO), was included in 2006.

A. Membership: IMCare self-reported enrollment as of July 31, 2015 consisted of the following:

Product	Enrollment
Minnesota Health Care Programs-	
Managed Care (MHSP-MC)	
Families & Children	6,843
MinnesotaCare	721
Minnesota Senior Care (MSC+)	168
Minnesota Senior Health Options (MSHO)	475
Special Needs Basic Care (SNBC)	n/a
Total	8,207

B. Onsite Examinations Dates: September 28-October 2, 2015

C. Examination Period: August 1, 2012-July 31, 2015 File Review Period: August 1, 2014-July 31, 2015

Opening Date: June 19, 2015

- D. Sampling Methodology: Due to the small sample sizes and the methodology used for sample selection for the quality assurance examination, the results cannot be extrapolated as an overall deficiency rate for the health plan.
- E. Performance standard: For each instance of non-compliance with applicable law or rule identified during the quality assurance examination, that covers a three year audit period, the health plan is cited with a deficiency. A deficiency will not be based solely on one outlier file if MDH had sufficient evidence obtained through: 1) file review; 2) policies and procedures; and 3) interviews, that a plan's overall operation is compliant with an applicable law.

II. Quality Program Administration

Minnesota Rules, Part 4685.1110. Program \boxtimes Met ☐ Not Met Subp. 1 Written Quality Assurance Plan ⊠ Met Documentation of Responsibility ☐ Not Met Subp. 2 ⊠ Met ☐ Not Met Subp. 3 Appointed Entity ⊠ Met Subp. 4 Physician Participation ☐ Not Met Subp. 5 Staff Resources Met ■ ☐ Not Met Subp. 6 **Delegated Activities** Met ■ ☐ Not Met Subp. 7 Information System \boxtimes Met ☐ Not Met ⊠ Met ☐ Not Met Subp. 8 **Program Evaluation** Subp. 9 Complaints ☐ Not Met Met ■ Subp. 10 **Utilization Review** ☐ Not Met ⊠ Met ☐ Not Met Subp. 11 **Provider Selection and Credentialing** ⊠ Met ☐ Not Met Subp. 12 Qualifications ⊠ Met Subp. 13 Medical Records ☐ Not Met

<u>Subp. 1.</u> Minnesota Rules, part 4685.1110, subpart 1, specifies the elements that are required to be included in the written quality plan. All the specified elements are included, however the area of utilization management could be expanded upon to include more specifics regarding IMCare's utilization management program and reporting relationships. The quality evaluation section could be revised to include IMCare's quality evaluation focus that includes a trending of measures for the quality activities, an analysis and evaluation of the overall effectiveness of its quality program and to whom does it get reported and approved. (**Recommendation #1**)

<u>Subp. 6.</u> Minnesota Rules, part 4685.1110, subpart 6, states the HMO must develop and implement review and reporting requirements to assure that the delegated entity performs all delegated activities. The standards established by the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) for delegation are considered the community standard and, as such, were used for the purposes of this examination. The following delegated entities and functions were reviewed:

Delegated Entities and Functions								
Entity	MU	UM Appeals	QM	Complaints/ Grievances	Cred	Claims	Network	Care Coord
0.10.10		Appeais		Grievances				
CVS/Caremark						Х	Х	
Itasca County HHS-								X
Public Health								

<u>Subd. 9.</u> Minnesota Rules, part 4685.1110, subpart 9, states the quality program must conduct ongoing evaluation of enrollee complaints related to quality of care. A total of <u>three</u> quality of care complaint and grievance files were reviewed as follows:

Quality of Care File Review				
QOC File Source # Reviewed				
QOC Grievances—MHCP-MC Products				
	3			
Total	3			

MDH commends IMCare for their thorough investigation of quality of care complaints. All aspects of each complaint were carefully evaluated and addressed.

<u>Subd. 11.</u> Minnesota Rules, part 4685.1110, subpart 11, states the plan must have policies and procedures for provider selection, credentialing and recredentialing that, at a minimum, are consistent with community standards. MDH understands the community standard to be NCQA.

MDH looked at a total of 18 credentialing files.

Credentialing File Review			
File Source	# Reviewed		
Initial	9		
Re-credential	8		
Organizational	1		
Total	18		

<u>Subd. 11.</u> During file review, MDH noted that of the nine initial credentialing files, one file took longer than 60 days between the committee approval date and the notice to the provider. All credentialing files were well organized and contained all of the required documentation.

Minnesot	a Rules, Part 4685.1115. Activities		
Subp. 1	Ongoing Quality Evaluation	oxtimes Met	☐ Not Met
Subp. 2	Scope	oxtimes Met	☐ Not Met
Minnesot	a Rules, Part 4685.1120. Quality Evaluation Steps		
Subp. 1	Problem Identification	⊠ Met	☐ Not Met
Subp. 2	Problem Selection	oxtimes Met	☐ Not Met
Subp. 3	Corrective Action	oxtimes Met	☐ Not Met
Subp. 4	Evaluation of Corrective Action	⊠ Met	□ Not Met

<u>Subp. 1</u> Minnesota Rules, part 4685.1120, subpart 1, states the organization must do ongoing monitoring of clinical performance and evaluate that data. IMcare may want to include more tables and or graphs (or both) to better demonstrate trends and progress over time, especially in summarizing its performance improvement projects. IMCare may also want to reorganize the

evaluation to include all the utilization management activities together under one section and include a summary of the overall effectiveness of utilization management program. (Recommendation #2)

Minnesot	a Rules, Part 4685.1125. Focus Study Steps		
Subp. 1	Focused Studies	oxtimes Met	☐ Not Met
Subp. 2	Topic Identification and Selection	oxtimes Met	☐ Not Met
Subp. 3	Study	oxtimes Met	☐ Not Met
Subp. 4	Corrective Action	oxtimes Met	☐ Not Met
Subp. 5	Other Studies	⊠ Met	☐ Not Met
Minnesot	a Rules, Part 4685.1130. Filed Written Plan and Work Plan		
Subp. 1	Written Plan	oxtimes Met	☐ Not Met
Subp. 2	Work Plan	oxtimes Met	□ Not Met

III. Grievance System

MDH examined IMCare's Minnesota Health Care Programs Managed Care Programs-Managed Care (MCHP-MC) grievance system for compliance with the federal law (42 CFR 438, subpart E) and the DHS 2015 Model Contract, Article 8.

MDH reviewed a total of <u>nine</u> grievance system files:

Grievance System File Review				
File Source	# Reviewed			
Grievances	3			
Non-Clinical Appeals	6			
State Fair Hearing	0			
Total	9			

Section 8.1.	§438.402	General Requirements		
Sec. 8.1.1		Components of Grievance System	⊠ Met	☐ Not Met
Section 8.2.	438.408	Internal Grievance Process Require	ments	
Sec. 8.2.1.	§438.402 (b)	Filing Requirements	oxtimes Met	☐ Not Met
Sec. 8.2.2.	§438.408 (b)(1)	Timeframe for Resolution of	oxtimes Met	☐ Not Met
		Grievances		
Sec. 8.2.3.	§438.408 (c)	Timeframe for Extension of	oxtimes Met	☐ Not Met
		Resolution of Grievances		
Sec. 8.2.4.	§438.406	Handling of Grievances		
(A)	§438.406 (a)(2)	Written Acknowledgement	oxtimes Met	☐ Not Met
(B)	§438.416	Log of Grievances	oxtimes Met	☐ Not Met
(C)	§438.402 (b)(3)	Oral or Written Grievances	oxtimes Met	☐ Not Met
(D)	§438.406 (a)(1)	Reasonable Assistance	oxtimes Met	☐ Not Met
(E)	§438.406 (a)(3)(i)	Individual Making Decision	oxtimes Met	☐ Not Met
(F)	§438.406 (a)(3)(ii)	Appropriate Clinical Expertise	oxtimes Met	☐ Not Met
Sec. 8.2.5	§438.408 (d)(1)	Notice of Disposition of a Grievance	!	
(A)	§438.408 (d)(1)	Oral Grievances	oxtimes Met	☐ Not Met
(B)	§438.408 (d)(1)	Written Grievances	oxtimes Met	☐ Not Met

Section 8.3. Sec. 8.3.1.	§438.404	DTR Notice of Action to Enrollees General Requirements	⊠ Met	□ Not Met
Sec. 8.3.2. (A) (B) (C) (1)	•	Timing of DTR Notice Previously Authorized Services Denials of Payment Standard Authorizations Ith care professional and hospital vithin one working day after making	☑ Met☑ Met☑ Met☑ Met	☐ Not Met☐ Not Met☐ Not Met☐ Not Met☐ Not Met☐
(2)	To the provider, enro must include the pro- ten(10) business days	ellee and hospital, in writing, and cess to initiate an appeal, within so following receipt of the request so the MCO receives an extension of	⊠ Met	□ Not Met
(D) (E) (F) Sec. 8.3.3.	§438.210 (d)(2)(i) §438.210 (d)(1) §438.210 (d) §438.420 (b)	Expedited Authorizations Extensions of Time Delay in Authorizations Continuation of Benefits Pending Decision	☑ Met☑ Met☑ Met☑ Met	☐ Not Met☐ Not Met☐ Not Met☐ Not Met☐ Not Met☐
Section 8.4.	§438.408	Internal Appeals Process Requirem	ents	
Sec. 8.4.1. Sec. 8.4.2.	§438.402 (b) §438.408 (b)(2)	Filing Requirements Timeframe for Resolution of Expedited Appeals	⊠ Met ⊠ Met	□ Not Met □ Not Met
Sec. 8.4.3.	§438.408 (b)	Timeframe for Resolution of Expedited Appeals	⊠ Met	□ Not Met
(A)	§438.408 (b)(3)	Expedited Resolution of Oral and Written Appeals	⊠ Met	□ Not Met
(B)	§438.410 (c)	Expedited Resolution Denied	⊠ Met	☐ Not Met
(C)	§438.410 (a)	Expedited Appeal by Telephone	⊠ Met	☐ Not Met
Sec. 8.4.4.	§438.408 (c)	Timeframe for Extension of Resolution of Appeals	⊠ Met	□ Not Met
Sec. 8.4.5.	§438.406	Handling of Appeals	⊠ Met	☐ Not Met
(A)	§438.406 (b)(1)	Oral Inquiries	⊠ Met	□ Not Met
(B) (C)	§438.406(a)(2) §438.406(a)(1)	Written Acknowledgement Reasonable Assistance	⊠ Met ⊠ Met	□ Not Met □ Not Met

Section 8.3. Section 8.4	§438.404 §438.408	DTR Notice of Action to Enrollees Internal Appeals Process Requirem	onto	
(D)	§438.406(a)(3)	Individual Making Decision	⊠ Met	□ Not Met
(E)	§438.406(a)(3)	Appropriate Clinical Expertise	⊠ Met	□ Not Met
(=)	3 130. 100(4)(3)	[See Minnesota Statutes, sections	E. IVICC	_ Not wet
		62M.06, and subd. 3(f) and		
		62M.09]		
(F)	§438.406(b)(2)	Opportunity to Present Evidence	oxtimes Met	☐ Not Met
(G)	§438.406 (b)(3)	Opportunity to examine the Case File	⊠ Met	□ Not Met
(H)	§438.406 (b)(4)	Parties to the Appeal	oxtimes Met	☐ Not Met
(I)	§438.410 (b)	Prohibition of Punitive Action	oxtimes Met	☐ Not Met
Sec. 8.4.6.		Subsequent Appeals	oxtimes Met	☐ Not Met
Sec. 8.4.7.	§438.408 (d)(2) and (e)	Notice of Resolution of Appeals	⊠ Met	☐ Not Met
(A)	§438.408 (d)(2)	Written Notice Content	oxtimes Met	☐ Not Met
	and (e)			
(B)	§438.210 (c)	Appeals of UM Decisions	oxtimes Met	\square Not Met
(C)	§438.210 (c) and	Telephone Notification of	oxtimes Met	☐ Not Met
	.408 (d)(2)(<i>ii</i>)	Expedited Appeals		
		[Also see Minnesota Statutes		
		section 62M.06, subd. 2]		_
Sec, 8.4.8.	§438.424	Reversed Appeal Resolutions	⊠ Met	☐ Not Met
Section 8.5.	§438.416 (c)	Maintenance of Grievance and App	oeal Records	
			oxtimes Met	☐ Not Met
Section 8.9.	§438.416 (c)	State Fair Hearings		
Sec. 8.9.2.	§438.408 (f)	Standard Hearing Decisions	oxtimes Met	\square Not Met
Sec. 8.9.5.	§438.420	Continuation of Benefits Pending	oxtimes Met	\square Not Met
		Resolution of State Fair Hearing	_	_
Sec. 8.9.6.	§438.424	Compliance with State Fair	⊠ Met	☐ Not Met
		Hearing Resolution		

<u>Section 8.9</u> MDH reviewed all required policies and procedures related to State Fair Hearings. However, there were no State Fair Hearing files to review.

IV. Access and Availability

Minnesota S	tatutes, Section 62D.124. Geographic Accessibility		
Subd. 1.	Primary Care, Mental Health Services, General Hospital Services	⊠ Met	□ Not Met
Subd. 2.	Other Health Services	⊠ Met	☐ Not Met
Subd. 3.	Exception	⊠ Met	□ Not Met
requirement network. A la	2. Minnesota Statutes, section 62D.124, outlines the specis for primary and specialty care. IMCare performed an except of behavioral health providers was identified for northwat measures were being done to alleviate the gap.	ellent gap ana	ysis of its
Minnesota R	Rules, Part 4685.1010. Availability and Accessibility		
Subp. 2.	Basic Services	oxtimes Met	☐ Not Met
Subp. 5	Coordination of Care	oxtimes Met	☐ Not Met
Subp. 6.	Timely Access to Health care Services	⊠ Met	□ Not Met
Minnesota S	tatutes, Section 62Q.55. Emergency Services	⊠ Met	□ Not Met
Minnesota S	tatutes, Section 62Q.121. Licensure of Medical Directors	⊠ Met	□ Not Met
Minnesota S Emotional D	tatutes, Section 62Q.527. Coverage of Nonformulary Dru isturbance	gs for Mental	Illness and
Subd. 2.	Required Coverage for Anti-psychotic Drugs	oxtimes Met	☐ Not Met
Subd. 3.	Continuing Care	oxtimes Met	☐ Not Met
Subd. 4.	Exception to formulary	⊠ Met	□ Not Met
Minnesota S	tatutes, Section 62Q.535. Coverage for Court-Ordered M	ental Health S	Services
Subd. 1.	Mental health services	⊠ Met	☐ Not Met
Subd. 2.	Coverage required	oxtimes Met	☐ Not Met

Minnesota Statutes, Section 62Q.56. Continuity of Care						
Subd. 1.	Change in health care provider, general notification	oxtimes Met	☐ Not Met			
Subd. 1a.	Change in health care provider, termination not for cause	⊠ Met	☐ Not Met			
Subd. 1b.	Change in health care provider, termination for cause	oxtimes Met	☐ Not Met			
Subd. 2.	Change in health plans	oxtimes Met	☐ Not Met			
Subd. 2a.	Limitations	oxtimes Met	☐ Not Met			
Subd. 2b.	Request for authorization	oxtimes Met	☐ Not Met			
Subd. 3.	Disclosures	oxtimes Met	☐ Not Met			

V. Utilization Review

I. UM System File Review				
File Source	#Reviewed			
UM Denial Files				
MHCP-MC	13			
Clinical Appeal Files				
MHCP-MC	7			
Subtotal				
Total	20			

Minneso	ta Sta	atutes, Section 62M.04. Standards for Utilization Review	Performand	e
Subd. 1		Responsibility on Obtaining Certification	oxtimes Met	☐ Not Met
Subd. 2.		Information upon which Utilization Review is Conducted	oxtimes Met	☐ Not Met
Minneso	ta Sta	atutes, Section 62M.05. Procedures for Review Determina	ation	
Subd. 1.		Written Procedures	oxtimes Met	☐ Not Met
Subd. 2.		Concurrent Review	oxtimes Met	☐ Not Met
Subd. 3.		Notification of Determination	oxtimes Met	☐ Not Met
Subd. 3a.		Standard Review Determination	oxtimes Met	☐ Not Met
	(a)	Initial determination to certify (10 business days)	oxtimes Met	☐ Not Met
	(b)	Initial determination to certify (telephone notification)	oxtimes Met	☐ Not Met
	(c)	Initial determination not to certify	oxtimes Met	☐ Not Met
	(d)	Initial determination not to certify (notice of right to	oxtimes Met	☐ Not Met
		external appeal)		
Subd. 3b.		Expedited Review Determination	oxtimes Met	☐ Not Met
Subd. 4.		Failure to Provide Necessary Information	⊠ Met	☐ Not Met
Subd. 5.		Notifications to Claims Administrator	oxtimes Met	☐ Not Met
		esota Statutes, section 62M.05, subdivision 3a, outlines th	-	•
		ew determinations. IMCare files contained thorough docur notifications.	nentation o	i the
ueteriiiii	ation	Hothications.		
Statutes,	Sect	ion 62M.06. Appeals of Determinations not to Certify		
Subd. 1.		Procedures for Appeal	oxtimes Met	☐ Not Met
Subd. 2.		Expedited Appeal	⊠ Met	☐ Not Met
Subd. 3.		Standard Appeal		
	(a)	Appeal resolution notice timeline	oxtimes Met	☐ Not Met
	(b)	Documentation requirements	oxtimes Met	☐ Not Met
	(c)	Review by a different physician	oxtimes Met	☐ Not Met
	(d)	Time limit in which to appeal	oxtimes Met	☐ Not Met
	(e)	Unsuccessful appeal to reverse determination	oxtimes Met	☐ Not Met

Statutes, Se	ection 62M.06. Appeals of Determinations not to Cert	ify	
(1	Same or similar specialty review	oxtimes Met	☐ Not Met
(g	;) Notice of rights to external; review	oxtimes Met	☐ Not Met
Subd. 4.	Notification to Claims Administrator	⊠ Met	☐ Not Met
Minnesota	Statutes, Section 62M.08. Confidentiality		
	•	⊠ Met	□ Not Met
Minnesota	Statutes, Section 62M.09. Staff and Program Qualifica	ations	
Subd. 1.	Staff Criteria	oxtimes Met	☐ Not Met
Subd. 2.	Licensure Requirements	oxtimes Met	☐ Not Met
Subd. 3.	Physician Reviewer Involvement	oxtimes Met	☐ Not Met
Subd. 3a	Mental Health and Substance Abuse Review	oxtimes Met	☐ Not Met
Subd. 4.	Dentist Plan Reviews	oxtimes Met	☐ Not Met
Subd. 4a.	Chiropractic Reviews	oxtimes Met	☐ Not Met
Subd. 5.	Written Clinical Criteria	oxtimes Met	☐ Not Met
Subd. 6.	Physician Consultants	oxtimes Met	☐ Not Met
Subd. 7.	Training for Program Staff	oxtimes Met	☐ Not Met
Subd. 8.	Quality Assessment Program	⊠ Met	☐ Not Met
Minnesota	Statutes, Section 62M.11. Complaints to Commerce of	r Health	
		oxtimes Met	□ Not Met

VI. Recommendations

- To better comply with Minnesota Rules, part 4685.1110, subpart 1, the written quality
 plan could be expanded upon expanded upon to include more specifics regarding
 IMCare's utilization management program and reporting relationships. The quality
 evaluation section could be revised to include IMCare's quality evaluation focus that
 includes a trending of measures for the quality activities, an analysis and evaluation of
 the overall effectiveness of its quality program and to whom does it get reported and
 approved.
- 2. To better comply with Minnesota Rules, part 4685.1120, subpart 1, IMcare could include more tables and or graphs (or both) to better demonstrate trends and progress over time, especially in summarizing its performance improvement projects. IMCare may also want to reorganize the evaluation to include all the utilization management activities together under one section and include a summary of the overall effectiveness of utilization management program.

VII. Mandatory Improvements

None

VIII. Deficiencies

None