

## NETWORK ACCESS FAQs

Upcoming policy change allowing individuals with rare diseases to go out-of-network for care

In the 2023 legislative session, the state of Minnesota passed the “network access bill.” Given that many rare diseases have a very small number of clinicians with expertise in caring for a specific rare disease, this policy is aimed at **reducing the diagnostic odyssey, addressing health equity, and improving outcomes** by allowing individuals with a rare disease (or suspected rare disease) to access appropriate specialists who may be out-of-network\*.

### What is the eligibility criteria for this policy?

Any Minnesota resident

- with a diagnosis of the rare disease as defined by the Genetic and Rare Disease Center list created by the National Institute of Health (NIH)
- Or who
  - (i) has received two or more clinical consultations from a primary care provider or specialty provider that are specific to the presenting complaint;  
and
  - (ii) has documentation in the enrollee’s medical record of a developmental delay through standardized assessment, developmental regression, failure to thrive, or progressive multisystemic involvement;  
and
  - (iii) had laboratory or clinical testing that failed to provide a definitive diagnosis or resulted in conflicting diagnoses.

### Does this policy apply to both in and out-of-state providers?

Yes. It applies to both in and out of state providers.

### Which types of health plan companies does this apply to?

Any health plan issued or renewed in Minnesota for Minnesota residents, or to cover a Minnesota resident. These include

- Minnesota Medicaid (MA)
- MinnesotaCare
- Commercial insurance companies (both non-profit and for profit)
- The State Employee Group Insurance Plan (SEGIP)  
(employer-sponsored plans are not included)

### When does the policy go into effect?

This policy goes into effect January 1st, 2024.

### Learn more

Read the *MNRDAC 2020 Healthcare Access Study* on access barriers to care across rare diseases [here](#).

*\*Before visiting a provider, contact your health plan to be sure you qualify.*

