

**Subject** Essential community providers included in all provider networks

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## Overview

The commissioner of health is authorized to designate health care providers that meet certain criteria in statute as essential community providers. Under current law, a health plan company must offer a contract to any essential community provider located in the area served by the health plan company. This bill requires a health plan company to include all essential community providers that accept a contract in each of the company's provider networks, and modifies requirements for contract payment rates for essential community providers for individual, small employer, and large group health plans.

## Summary

Section	Description
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<b>1</b>	<b>Health plan company affiliation.</b>
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Amends § 62Q.19, subd. 3. Requires a health plan company to offer a contract to all essential community providers located within the area served by the health plan company, and to include all essential community providers that accept a contract in each of the company's provider networks.

Effective date: This section is effective January 1, 2025, and applies to health plans offered, issued, or renewed on or after that date.

<b>2</b>	<b>Contract payment rates; private.</b>
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Adds subd. 4a to § 62Q.19. Allows an essential community provider and health plan company to negotiate a payment rate for covered services provided by the essential community provider. Requires the rate to be at least the same rate per unit of service as paid by that health plan company to the essential community provider under the provider contract with the highest number of enrollees from the provider, or, if there is no contract between the health plan company and essential community provider, requires the rate to be at least the same rate per unit of service as is paid to other

Section	Description
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plan providers for the same or similar services. This subdivision applies to provider contracts for individual, small employer, and large group health plans.

**3 Contract payment rates; public.**

Amends § 62Q.19, subd. 5. Specifies that an existing subdivision on contract payment rates between health plan companies and essential community providers applies to provider contracts for health plans offered through the State Employee Group Insurance Program, medical assistance, and MinnesotaCare. (The existing subdivision requires the rate between a health plan company and essential community provider to be at least the same rate per unit of service as is paid to other health plan providers for the same or similar service.)



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