

# Fast Facts

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News for Providers from HealthPartners  
Provider Relations & Network Management

## Administrative

### Minnesota Rare Disease Mandate

#### MN STATUE § 62Q.451

Effective January 1, 2024 a new law, the Minnesota (MN) Rare Disease Mandate, becomes effective. The new mandate states no health plan company may restrict the choice of an enrollee as to where the enrollee receives services from a licensed health care provider related to the diagnosis, monitoring and treatment of a rare disease or condition, including but not limited to, additional restrictions through any prior authorization, preauthorization, prior approval, precertification process, increased fees or other methods.

"Rare disease or condition" means any disease or condition:

- that affects fewer than 200,000 persons in the United States and is chronic, serious, life-altering or life-threatening;
- that affects more than 200,000 persons in the United States and a drug for treatment has been designated as a drug for a rare disease or condition pursuant to United States Code, title 21, section 360bb [FDA Orphan Drugs List](#);
- that is labeled as a rare disease or condition on the [Genetic and Rare Diseases Information Center list created by the National Institutes of Health](#); or
- for which an enrollee: (i) has received two or more clinical consultations from a primary care provider or specialty provider that are specific to the presenting complaint; (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.

For more information, please check out the following links:

- [Rare Disease and Condition policy](#)
- [healthpartners.com/mnrarediseasemandate](https://healthpartners.com/mnrarediseasemandate)
- [MN Statute § 62Q.451](#)

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## Medical Policy Updates – 12/01/2023

### MEDICAL, BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT (DME) & MEDICAL DENTAL COVERAGE POLICY

Please read this list of new or revised HealthPartners coverage policies. HealthPartners coverage policies and related lists are available online at [healthpartners.com](https://healthpartners.com) (path: Provider/Coverage Criteria). Upon request, a paper version of revised and new policies can be mailed to clinic groups whose staff does not have Internet access. Providers may speak with a HealthPartners Medical Director if they have a question about a utilization management decision.

Coverage Policies	Comments / Changes
Autism – applied behavioral analysis for treatment of autism spectrum disorders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Effective 2/1/2024, new policy which outlines HealthPartners follows MCG Health Behavioral Health Care 27th Edition guideline coverage criteria for Applied Behavior Analysis.</li> <li>Prior authorization will not be required.</li> </ul>
Early intensive intervention services for autism – Minnesota	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Effective immediately, prior authorization is no longer required. Effective 2/1/2024, policy will be retired.</li> </ul>
Intensive behavioral therapy for autism – Wisconsin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Effective immediately, prior authorization is no longer required. Effective 2/1/2024, policy will be retired.</li> </ul>
Autism – applied behavior analysis for treatment of autism spectrum disorders – South Dakota	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Effective immediately, prior authorization is no longer required. Effective 2/1/2024, policy will be retired.</li> </ul>

Contact the Medical Policy Intake line at **952-883-5724** for specific patient inquiries.

## Proof Alliance enrolling prenatal practices into the SAFEST Choice Learning Collaborative

The **SAFEST Choice Learning Collaborative** is a program that helps clinics address fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD) in prenatal care and pediatric care through virtual Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes (ECHO) sessions.

SAFEST Choice is currently enrolling **prenatal care providers** to join the cohort that starts in February. Clinic teams will learn how to screen for prenatal alcohol exposure and counsel patients about the risks of alcohol use during pregnancy.

Participants receive **free continuing education credits** (physicians, nurses, psychologists, social workers, certified counselors). The program is provided by Boston Medical Center and Proof Alliance, with funding by Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

If you would like more information on how your clinic can be part of the SAFEST Choice Learning Collaborative, email [safestchoice@bmc.org](mailto:safestchoice@bmc.org).



*In the CDC's most recent MMWR for pregnant adults there was a 2 percentage point increase in both reported alcohol use and binge drinking.*

## RideCare® tips

### WHAT IS RIDE CARE?

RideCare is a state-funded benefit that provides no-cost transportation to and from appointments for those who qualify.

RideCare specifically refers to the HealthPartners-administered medical transportation service. Other health plans use different names for this service. For example, the MN Department of Human Services refers to this service as Nonemergency Medical Transportation (NEMT). Members who are new to HealthPartners and/or who have had Medicaid through other health plans may be familiar with these other terms.

### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

- Members in HealthPartners PMAP, MSC+, SNBC, MSHO
- Pregnant people and children in MinnesotaCare

### HOW TO ACCESS/SCHEDULE RIDE CARE:

- Call RideCare at **952-883-7400** or **888-288-1439 (TTY: 711)** to schedule a ride. They're open Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.
  - There is no after-hours access for RideCare staff. Rides for evenings or weekends must be arranged during RideCare business hours.
- RideCare requests that members provide enough notice prior to the scheduled appointment for them to properly set up the transportation.
  - For same-day metro appointments, call three hours ahead at minimum.
  - If members require special transportation services (e.g., wheelchair or stretcher), it's recommended to call 3 to 5 days in advance.
  - If members have an emergency need, they should call 911.

### WHAT IS COVERED?

- Trips to clinics and hospitals that are in a member's network, including doctors, dentists, mental health providers, urgent care or specialty clinics.
- Transportation to medical appointments within 30 miles of a member's home for primary care (including pharmacy, mental health and hospital visits) and within 60 miles of a member's home for specialty care (including dental and chemical health).
- MSHO members can use RideCare services for transportation to SilverSneakers® fitness facilities.
- RideCare provides public transportation as the first mode of transportation. This includes the use of the light rail and bus systems.
  - If a member has a health concern preventing the use of buses or light rail, RideCare will take responsibility for requesting a form directly from member's doctor confirming that they must travel by cab.
  - If a member qualifies for a single bus ride to an appointment, they are issued an unlimited pass for the entire month. They can use this pass for all their transportation needs.
- Special Transportation Services (e.g., wheelchair or stretcher accessible vehicle, kids traveling alone) are available. Members must qualify for this level of service. RideCare takes the responsibility for sending this form to the member's provider.
- RideCare will authorize trips to the pharmacy for members as part of their ride, after their appointment.
  - Members can be authorized for one standalone pharmacy ride per month.

If you have questions regarding the content of this newsletter, please contact the person indicated in the article or call your HealthPartners Service Specialist. If you don't have his/her phone number, please call **952-883-5589** or toll-free at **888-638-6648**. This newsletter is available online at [healthpartners.com/fastfacts](https://healthpartners.com/fastfacts).

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