

January 20, 2023

RE: Growing with a New Partner – What to Expect in 2023

Dear Dean Health Plan Provider,

In 2021, SSM Health entered into a strategic partnership with Medica, an independent, non-profit health plan headquartered in Minnetonka, Minnesota. This affiliation brings Dean Health Plan into the Medica family. As two mission-driven health plans with complementary values, histories, and experience, Dean Health Plan and Medica are actively evaluating exciting possibilities for providers and members under this partnership.

Current Pursuits

You may have already noticed indications of our partnership with Medica as we have aligned certain areas of our organizations, including:

- Dean Health Plan employees are now Medica employees and have joined the Medica Employee Benefit Plan, effective January 1, 2023. For *Dean Health Plan/Medica employees in Wisconsin*, the Medica Employee Benefit Plan is administered by WellFirst Health, leverages the Dean Health Plan provider network, and integrates many of the same processes and provider resources as those for the SSM Health Employee Health Plan and Dean Health Plan Commercial products. (This new product is strictly for Dean Health Plan/Medica employees. *SSM Health employees* continue to be covered under the SSM Health Employee Health Plan administered by WellFirst Health.)
- The Dean Health Plan logo is being updated to include the “by Medica” endorser and heart icon to reflect our relationship with Medica. We will gradually update the logo in provider materials and resources throughout 2023.

What’s Next

We will continue to build our partnership with Medica to align best practices and share technology. As such, both health plans are pursuing a new, shared claims processing platform to be implemented in phases starting in 2024. Other changes, such as policy methodologies and business processes, may affect how you interact with us in the future. We are dedicated to providing these details in advance of the change as they become available.

This information will be shared in ongoing Dean Health Plan communications throughout the year, distributed, and posted online so that you and others in your organization can personally assess future impacts on your business processes.

Our Commitment to Keep You Informed

While our partnership with Medica will allow us to accelerate advancements, it is our partnership with you, our valued providers and support teams, that will be at the forefront this year. We are committed to providing relevant and timely information specific to our partnership with Medica through the established, regularly issued Dean Health Plan provider communications that you currently rely on for updates, such as our monthly medical and drug policy notices and quarterly newsletters. When necessary, off-cycle communications outside of our monthly and quarterly communications will be used to relay information.

This initial notice is being distributed by paper mail and email; however, going forward, most communications will be released and available electronically. Please be sure you have “opted in” through your Dean Health Plan Provider Portal account to receive emails from us or visit our web pages regularly to access these communications:

- [Dean Health Plan Provider Communications](#) – links to monthly and off-cycle provider communications and other provider resources.
- [Dean Health Plan Provider News](#) – links to quarterly provider newsletters.

Additionally, refer to the [Dean Health Plan Medica Q&A web page](#) for questions and answers regarding our partnership with Medica. This page will be updated to reflect additional inquiries and new information as it becomes available.

If you have further questions after referring to these resources, please contact your Provider Network Consultant who will make every effort to provide an answer so that you can determine how the information may affect your organization. Please keep in mind that information will be communicated throughout the year, so details regarding your specific inquiry may not yet be available.

We look forward to sharing more in the coming months and supporting you as we prepare for these exciting changes.

Sincerely,

Dean Health Plan