

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Altru Cancels Medicaid Managed Care Contract

BISMARCK, N.D. – Today Altru Health System notified the North Dakota Department of Human Services that it will no longer serve as a managed care organization through the North Dakota Medicaid Program after October 31. This change will affect about 800 low-income residents of Grand Forks, Pembina, and Walsh counties who qualify for Medicaid and participate in the Altru managed care plan. Other Medicaid participants in the three-county area are not affected.

“We’ll be working to transition affected individuals to regular Medicaid coverage. We can do some of this through our computer systems. People will not be denied services,” said Maggie Anderson, the department’s Medical Services Division Director.

Affected individuals will receive a letter from the Department of Human Services. Within the next month, affected individuals will need to contact their county eligibility worker to select a primary care provider.

Anderson was notified October 27 of Altru’s decision to cancel the contract. The managed care contract expired June 30, 2006, and had been extended twice while the department continued negotiations with Altru officials.

Medicaid is required to use actuarially certified provider reimbursement rates for managed care organizations. The rate determined by actuaries was \$151 per member per month. Rates vary slightly due to age and eligibility category.

Participation by Medicaid participants in the Altru managed care plan was voluntary. This was the department’s only managed care contract in North Dakota.

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