

Independent Health Appeals and Grievances Data Report

January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023

<p>What kind of information is this?</p>	<p>Medicare Advantage plan members have the right to file an appeal or grievance with their plan. Individuals eligible to enroll in a Medicare Advantage plan have the right to request information about the number of appeals and grievances a plan receives. The next few pages contain information about the appeals and grievances that Independent Health received in 2023.</p>
<p>How many members does Independent Health have?</p>	<p>Independent Health has about 66,061 members.</p>
<p>What is a level 1 appeal?</p>	<p>A level 1 appeal is a formal request for Independent Health to review Independent Health's decision not to pay for, not to provide, or to stop an item or service that a member believes they need.</p> <p>If a member cannot get an item or service that the member feels they need, or if the plan has denied payment of a claim for a service the member has already received, the member can appeal to the plan. For example, a member might appeal our decision to stop physical therapy, to deny a visit to a specialist, or to deny payment of a claim.</p> <p>The number of level 1 appeals Independent Health had in 2023 can be found on line 1 of the attached report. The number of level 1 appeals received per 1,000 members can be found on line 2.</p>
<p>What can happen with level 1 appeals?</p>	<p>Plans may decide to pay for or to provide all services that the member asked for. These are called favorable decisions.</p> <p>Sometimes, plans decide not to pay for or to provide the services that the member asked for. These are called unfavorable decisions.</p> <p>Sometimes, a member may decide to withdraw their appeal. Because the plan dismisses a withdrawn appeal, they are not included in this report.</p> <p>The number of favorable level 1 appeal decisions Independent Health made can be found on line 3 of the attached report. Unfavorable decisions can be found on line 4.</p>

<p>What is a grievance?</p>	<p>A grievance is a complaint that a member makes about Independent Health. For example, a member can file a grievance when they are unhappy because they believe their plan gives them too much or too little information, there are long wait times when calling the plan, a doctor’s office waiting room is too cold, or they have to travel long distances to get to their doctor.</p> <p>The number of grievances Independent Health had in 2023 can be found on line 5 of the attached report. The number of grievances received per 1,000 members can be found on line 6.</p>
<p>Where can I get more information about appeals and grievances?</p>	<p>If you are a member of Independent Health, you have the right to file an appeal or grievance.</p> <p>You can contact Independent Health at 1-800-665-1502 or 716-250-4401 (October 1-March 31: Monday- Saturday, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m., April 1- September 30: Monday- Friday, 8a.m.- 8 p.m.) to resolve a concern you may have to get more information on how to file an appeal or grievance. TTY users can call 711. You may also refer to your Evidence of Coverage for a complete explanation of your rights.</p> <p>You also can contact the Beneficiary and Family Centered Care- Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) at 1-866-815-5440 (TTY: 1-866-868-2289) for more information about quality of care grievances or to file a quality of care grievance.</p>



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January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023

Average Number of Members in 2023: 66,061

Level 1 Appeals

	Description	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Year Total
1	Level 1 appeals received	827	969	948	889	3,633
2	Level 1 appeals per 1,000 members	13	15	14	13	55
3	Favorable level 1 appeal decisions	522	596	584	504	2,206
4	Unfavorable level 1 appeal decisions	305	373	364	385	1,427

Grievances

	Description	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Year Total
5	Grievances received	1,081	829	835	923	3,668
6	Grievances per 1,000 members	16	13	13	14	56

Quarter 1: January 1 – March 31

Quarter 2: April 1 – June 30

Quarter 3: July 1 – September 30

Quarter 4: October 1 – December 31

Year Total: January 1 - December 31



Multi-Language Insert

Multi-language Interpreter Services

English: We have free interpreter services to answer any questions you may have about our health or drug plan. To get an interpreter, just call us at 1-800-665-1502. Someone who speaks English/Language can help you. This is a free service.

Spanish: Tenemos servicios de intérprete sin costo alguno para responder cualquier pregunta que pueda tener sobre nuestro plan de salud o medicamentos. Para hablar con un intérprete, por favor llame al 1-800-665-1502. Alguien que hable español le podrá ayudar. Este es un servicio gratuito.

Chinese Mandarin: 我们提供免费的翻译服务，帮助您解答关于健康或药物保险的任何疑问。如果您需要此翻译服务，请致电 1-800-665-1502。我们的中文工作人员很乐意帮助您。这是一项免费服务。

Chinese Cantonese: 您對我們的健康或藥物保險可能存有疑問，為此我們提供免費的翻譯服務。如需翻譯服務，請致電 1-800-665-1502。我們講中文的人員將樂意為您提供幫助。這是一項免費服務。

Tagalog: Mayroon kaming libreng serbisyo sa pagsasaling-wika upang masagot ang anumang mga katanungan ninyo hinggil sa aming planong pangkalusugan o panggamot. Upang makakuha ng tagasaling-wika, tawagan lamang kami sa 1-800-665-1502. Maaari kayong tulungan ng isang nakakapagsalita ng Tagalog. Ito ay libreng serbisyo.

French: Nous proposons des services gratuits d'interprétation pour répondre à toutes vos questions relatives à notre régime de santé ou d'assurance-médicaments. Pour accéder au service d'interprétation, il vous suffit de nous appeler au 1-800-665-1502. Un interlocuteur parlant Français pourra vous aider. Ce service est gratuit.

Vietnamese: Chúng tôi có dịch vụ thông dịch miễn phí để trả lời các câu hỏi về chương sức khỏe và chương trình thuốc men. Nếu quý vị cần thông dịch viên xin gọi 1-800-665-1502 sẽ có nhân viên nói tiếng Việt giúp đỡ quý vị. Đây là dịch vụ miễn phí .

German: Unser kostenloser Dolmetscherservice beantwortet Ihren Fragen zu unserem Gesundheits- und Arzneimittelplan. Unsere Dolmetscher erreichen Sie unter 1-800-665-1502. Man wird Ihnen dort auf Deutsch weiterhelfen. Dieser Service ist kostenlos.

Korean: 당사는 의료 보험 또는 약품 보험에 관한 질문에 대해 드리고자 무료 통역 서비스를 제공하고 있습니다. 통역 서비스를 이용하려면 전화 1-800-665-1502 번으로 문의해 주십시오. 한국어를 하는 담당자가 도와 드릴 것입니다. 이 서비스는 무료로 운영됩니다.

Russian: Если у вас возникнут вопросы относительно страхового или медикаментного плана, вы можете воспользоваться нашими бесплатными услугами переводчиков. Чтобы воспользоваться услугами переводчика, позвоните нам по телефону 1-800-665-1502. Вам окажет помощь сотрудник, который говорит по-русски. Данная услуга бесплатная.

Arabic: إننا نقدم خدمات المترجم الفوري المجانية للإجابة عن أي أسئلة تتعلق بالصحة أو جدول الأدوية لدينا. للحصول على مترجم فوري، ليس عليك سوى الاتصال بنا على 1-800-665-1502. سيقوم شخص ما يتحدث العربية بمساعدتك. هذه خدمة مجانية.

Hindi: हमारे स्वास्थ्य या दवा की योजना के बारे में आपके किसी भी प्रश्न के जवाब देने के लिए हमारे पास मुफ्त दुभाषिया सेवाएँ उपलब्ध हैं। एक दुभाषिया प्राप्त करने के लिए, बस हमें 1-800-665-1502 पर फोन करें। कोई व्यक्ति जो हिन्दी बोलता है आपकी मदद कर सकता है। यह एक मुफ्त सेवा है।

Italian: È disponibile un servizio di interpretariato gratuito per rispondere a eventuali domande sul nostro piano sanitario e farmaceutico. Per un interprete, contattare il numero 1-800-665-1502. Un nostro incaricato che parla Italianovi fornirà l'assistenza necessaria. È un servizio gratuito.

Portuguese: Dispomos de serviços de interpretação gratuitos para responder a qualquer questão que tenha acerca do nosso plano de saúde ou de medicação. Para obter um intérprete, contacte-nos através do número 1-800-665-1502. Irá encontrar alguém que fale o idioma Português para o ajudar. Este serviço é gratuito.

French Creole: Nou genyen sèvis entèprèt gratis pou reponn tout kesyon ou ta genyen konsènan plan medikal oswa dwòg nou an. Pou jwenn yon entèprèt, jis rele nou nan 1-800-665-1502. Yon moun ki pale Kreyòl kapab ede w. Sa a se yon sèvis ki gratis.

Polish: Umożliwiamy bezpłatne skorzystanie z usług tłumacza ustnego, który pomoże w uzyskaniu odpowiedzi na temat planu zdrowotnego lub dawkowania leków. Aby skorzystać z pomocy tłumacza znającego język polski, należy zadzwonić pod numer 1-800-665-1502. Ta usługa jest bezpłatna.

Japanese: 当社の健康 健康保険と薬品 処方薬プランに関するご質問にお答えするために、無料の通訳サービスがあります。通訳をご用命になるには、1-800-665-1502 にお電話ください。日本語を話す人 者が支援いたします。これは無料のサービスです。

Notice of Nondiscrimination

Discrimination is Against the Law

Independent Health complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex. Independent Health does not exclude people or treat them differently because of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex.

Independent Health:

- Provides free aids and services to people with disabilities to communicate effectively with us, such as:
 - Qualified sign language interpreters
 - Written information in other formats (large print, audio, accessible electronic formats, other formats)
- Provides free language services to people whose primary language is not English, such as:
 - Qualified interpreters
 - Information written in other languages

If you need these services, contact Independent Health's Member Services Department. If you believe that Independent Health has failed to provide these services or discriminated in another way on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex, you can file a grievance with: Independent Health's Member Services Department, 511 Farber Lakes Drive, Buffalo, NY 14221, 1-800-501-3439, TTY users call 711, fax (716) 635-3504, memberservice@servicing.independenthealth.com. You can file a grievance in person or by mail, fax, or email. If you need help filing a grievance, Independent Health's Member Services Department is available to help you.

You can also file a civil rights complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights, electronically through the Office for Civil Rights Complaint Portal, available at <https://ocrportal.hhs.gov/ocr/portal/lobby.jsf>, or by mail or phone at:

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Room 509F, HHH Building
Washington, D.C. 20201
1-800-368-1019, 800-537-7697 (TDD)

Complaint forms are available at <http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/office/file/index.html>.