Dear Jolie Matthews,

I am writing to you in regards to HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN NETWORK ACCESS AND ADEQUACY MODEL ACT (Model #74).

Specifically:

**Section 8.B(1)** For health care professionals:

**Section 8.B(2)** For hospitals:

**Section 8.B(3)** Except hospitals, other facilities by type:

**Section 8.C(1)** The health care professional information in Subsection B(1)... 

**Section 8.C(2)** For hospitals, the following information...

**Section 8.C(3)** Except hospitals, for other facilities, the following information...

I will include links to credible research material and articles that supports my statements.


As a male, I prefer a male primary care doctor. Thankfully I have never had to have any procedures that a nurse needed to assist. I know a number of men that have had this issue. Many practices (just as my PCP's practice) may have a male physician, but ALL their staff are female. I have a couple male friends who had gone to a urologist because he was male only to find that the nurses who assisted in the procedures were all female. Some of the physicians insisted that they needed the assistance of a nurse for the procedures.

I am currently dealing with that issue myself with seeking an imaging provider. The nearest imaging center that can accommodate same gender care (has male radiologists, technicians, and support staff) is 125 miles away. Many men have preferences about gender of their healthcare providers.

Catherine E. Dube, EdD, has been doing research into men’s health attitudes for years. She and her colleagues published “Talking with male patients about cancer screening” in the Dec. 17, 2004 issue of the Journal of the American Academy of Physician Assistants (Source: [http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/15631018](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/15631018)). They wrote:

“Clinicians may hold certain assumptions about male patients that are not well founded. Clinicians may believe, for example, that men are immodest and unlikely to feel embarrassment during genital exams, don’t care about their health, are emotionally insensitive, and will seek medical care only if pressed to do so by a woman in their life. In our focus group research, however, we discovered that men were surprisingly modest about physical exposure in clinical settings, concerned about embarrassing exams, and interested in their health. We also learned that they desired closer personal relationships with their health care providers.”
Here are some additional sources:

https://pmr.uchicago.edu/sites/pmr.uchicago.edu/files/uploads/Padela,%20Patient%20choice%20of%20provider%20type%20in%20the%20emergency.pdf

http://www.jaoa.osteopathic.org/content/105/8/369.full


Finally, I recommend the blog of respected cardiologist Dr. Joel Sherman for more insights into gender preferences: http://patientprivacyreview.blogspot.com/

My Recommendations:

Include 2 additional criteria for the following in section 8:

Section 8.B(1)(f) Gender of support staff;
Section 8.B(1)(g) Provide same gender care for;

Section 8.B(2)(d) Gender of support staff;
Section 8.B(2)(e) Provide same gender care for;

Section 8.B(3)(e) Gender of support staff;
Section 8.B(3)(f) Provide same gender care for;

Section 8.C(1)(f) Gender of support staff;
Section 8.C(1)(g) Provide same gender care for;

Section 8.C(2)(c) Gender of support staff;
Section 8.C(2)(d) Provide same gender care for;

Section 8.C(3)(e) Gender of support staff;
Section 8.C(3)(f) Provide same gender care for;

Here is an example of the new criteria:

Section 8.B(1)(f) Gender of support staff;
This can be answered: "All Female," "All Male," OR "Both Female and Male."

Section 8.B(1)(g) Provide same gender care for;
This can be answered: "Female," "Male," OR "Both Female and Male." This is important due to the situation I mentioned above where the urologist is male, but the rest of the staff is female. The following is possible:

Section 8.B(1) For health care professionals:
(a) Name; Dr. So-and-so
(b) Gender; male
(c) Contact information; (555) 555-1212
In this situation, the practice can bring in a male nurse from the affiliated hospital to provide for all male care with advanced notice. This is another trend in today's healthcare.

PLEASE SERIOUSLY CONSIDER THIS ADDITION AS IT REFLECTS THE CHANGING FACE OF HEALTHCARE!

Respectfully,

Eric H.