

NEWS RELEASE

(For immediate release)

Fulcrum Health joins Minnesota RETAIN to support and improve return-to-work outcomes for injured workers

Participating in Minnesota RETAIN will allow Fulcrum's network of credentialed chiropractors to help patients retain job skills, return to work sooner, and meet financial responsibilities

Plymouth, MN (October 2, 2023) – <u>Fulcrum Health, Inc.</u>, the leading non-profit physical medicine benefit management organization, is proud to announce its involvement in the Minnesota Retaining Employment and Talent After Injury and Illness Network (MN RETAIN), a statewide research study designed to keep individuals in the workforce or to help them return to work as soon as medically possible after an injury or illness.

A collaboration among organizations including MN Department of Employment and Economic Development, MN Department of Health, MN Department of Labor and Industry, the Governor's Workforce Development Board, Mayo Clinic, and Workforce Development, Inc., Minnesota RETAIN is in the second phase of a study aimed at helping employees maximize their physical health and rehabilitation and get back to everyday life as quickly as possible. The study is designed to evaluate the benefit of early interventions to help MN workers stay at work and return to work. Fulcrum's participation allows access to more than 2,400 chiropractors in its ChiroCare network to refer patients to the Minnesota RETAIN study. Once accepted, those patients who are randomized to the intervention group, receive services to support or sustain their employment, retain job skills, and help ease the transition back to work. Each worker in the intervention group is assigned a return to work case manager who serves as a liaison between the worker, their healthcare provider, employer, and other stakeholders to help them access services needed to return to work.

"Time lost to injuries and long-term illness can cost employers and Minnesotans millions each year. This is whether employees are injured on the job or on their own time. With more than 280 million

visits to chiropractors each year, chiropractic care is an increasingly vital part of managing those injuries. They are also a part of a successful return to work and reducing future disabilities," said <u>Deb Zurcher</u>, DC, LAc, Assistant Chief Clinical Officer, for Fulcrum Health. "Fulcrum Health represents a standard of excellence among chiropractors, and participating in Minnesota RETAIN gives providers an opportunity to deliver additional support for patients, while reinforcing the power of physical medicine to help people overcome injury and get back to work and life faster."

Enrollment in Minnesota RETAIN, which is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Labor and the Social Security Administration, will run through May of 2024. Minnesotans are eligible to participate if they are at least 18, meet the following requirements, and are not in any ineligible groups:

- Live and work in Minnesota;
- Have worked within the past six months; and
- Have an injury, illness, or upcoming surgery that will impact their ability to work in the near future (both work related and personal medical are eligible)

"I am thankful to have MN RETAIN as a resource for my patients. One of the patients I referred has been connected with some really amazing resources. He tells me MN RETAIN has been excellent in their communication and support every step of the way," said Dr. Hans Thurmer with Arrow Health Chiropractic + Rehab in Woodbury, MN, who is a participating network provider who has referred patients to the study."

For more information visit <u>fulcrumhealthinc.org</u>. For more information about Minnesota RETAIN, visit <u>MNRETAIN.com</u>.

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About Fulcrum Health

Fulcrum Health, Inc. is a non-profit, NCQA accredited, physical medicine benefit management organization delivering quality care through its credentialed chiropractic providers for 40 years. Its product offerings include chiropractic, acupuncture, massage therapy, and pain management services. Serving 2.5 million members in the Midwest, Fulcrum continues to offer innovative and inspiring ways to leverage physical medicine that help lower health care costs, achieve better outcomes, and increase patient satisfaction. Fulcrum Health is a multiple year recipient of the Press Ganey Guardian of Excellence Award for outstanding performance in patient satisfaction. For more information, visit <u>fulcrumhealthinc.org</u>. Follow us on <u>LinkedIn</u>..

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