

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
EASTERN DIVISION**

In re MultiPlan Health Insurance Provider Litigation

This Document Relates to:

**Laboratory Services MSO, LLC; DE Laboratory
LLC; Laboratory Services LLC,**

Plaintiffs,

v.

MULTIPLAN CORP. NKA CLARITEV
CORPORATION; MULTIPLAN, INC.; VIAN, INC.;
VIAN PAYMENT SYSTEMS, INC.; NATIONAL CARE
NETWORK, LP; NATIONAL CARE NETWORK, LLC;
MEDICAL AUDIT & REVIEW SOLUTIONS, INC.;
AETNA, INC.; THE CIGNA GROUP; UNITEDHEALTH
GROUP, INC.; UNITED MEDICAL RESOURCES INC;
ELEVANCE HEALTH, INC. F/K/A/ ANTHEM, INC.;
ANTHEM BLUE CROSS, INC. F/K/A EMPIRE BLUE
CROSS.; et al.,

Defendants.

Civil Action No.: 1:24-cv-06795

MDL No. 3121

DIRECT FILED COMPLAINT
PURSUANT TO MDL CASE
MANAGEMENT ORDERS 6, 7
(AS AMENDED)

**DIRECT ACTION PLAINTIFF SHORT-FORM COMPLAINT
OF LABORATORY SERVICES MSO, LLC; LABORATORY
SERVICES LLC; AND DE LABORATORY LLC**

Plaintiffs, **Laboratory Services MSO, LLC; DE Laboratory LLC; Laboratory Services LLC**

(collectively, “Laboratory Services” or “Plaintiffs”) file this Short-Form Complaint and Demand for Jury Trial against the Defendants named below by and through the undersigned counsel. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference the factual allegations, as well as the claims and relief checked below, sought in the Consolidated Master Direct Action Plaintiff Complaint (“Consolidated Master DAP Complaint”) as it relates to the named Defendants (checked below), filed in *In re Multiplan Health Insurance Provider*

Litigation, MDL No. 3121, in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. Plaintiffs file this Short-Form Complaint pursuant to Case Management Order No. 6, filed on the MDL Docket (No. 1:24-cv-06795) at ECF 179, and Amended Case Management Order No. 7, filed on the MDL Docket (No. 1:24-cv-06795) at ECF 503.

IDENTIFICATION OF PARTIES

A. PLAINTIFFS

1. Name of the Plaintiffs alleging claims against Defendant(s):

Laboratory Services MSO, LLC; DE Laboratory LLC; Laboratory Services LLC.

2. For each Plaintiff that is a corporation, list the state of incorporation and state of principal place of business. For each Plaintiff that is an LLC or partnership, list the state citizenship of each of its members. For each Plaintiff that is a natural person, list the state of residency and citizenship at the time of the filing of this Short-Form Complaint [Indicate State[s]]:

Laboratory Services MSO, LLC

- State of Incorporation: Delaware
- State of Citizenship: California

DE Laboratory LLC

- State of Incorporation: Delaware
- States of Citizenship: California, Texas

Laboratory Services LLC

- State of Incorporation: Wyoming
- State of Citizenship: California

B. DEFENDANTS

3. Plaintiffs name the following Defendants¹ in this action [*Check all that apply*]:

x	MultiPlan, Inc.
x	Aetna, Inc.
x	Blue Shield of California Life & Health Insurance Company

¹ Each Defendant named in this Short-Form Complaint includes each of that entity's executives, employees, directors, and majority-owned subsidiaries. For example, UnitedHealth Group Inc. includes, among others, the following majority-owned subsidiaries: United Healthcare Insurance Company, and its affiliates; United Healthcare Services Inc.; United Healthcare Service LLC; Oxford Benefit Management, Inc.; UMR, Inc.; Sierra Health and Life Insurance Company, Inc.; Sierra Health-Care Options, Inc.; Health Plan of Nevada, Inc.; and United Healthcare of Florida, Inc.

x	Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Mutual Insurance Company
x	Aware Integrated, Inc. and BCBSM, Inc. d/b/a Blue Cross Blue Shield Of Minnesota
x	Cambia Health Solutions, Inc. f/k/a The Regence Group
x	Centene Corporation
x	The Cigna Group
x	Elevance Health, Inc. f/k/a Anthem, Inc.
x	Health Care Service Corporation
x	Highmark Health
x	Horizon Healthcare Services, Inc. d/b/a Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey
x	Humana Inc.
x	Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc.
x	Molina Healthcare, Inc.
x	UnitedHealth Group Inc.
x	Allied National, LLC
x	Benefit Plans Administrators of Eau Claire, LLC
x	Central States Southeast and Southwest Areas Health and Welfare Fund
x	Consociate, Inc. d/b/a Consociate Health
x	Healthcare Highways Health Plan (ASO), LLC
x	Secure Health Plans of Georgia, LLC D/B/A Secure Health
x	Sanford Health Plan
x	CareFirst Of Maryland
x	Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts

C. OTHER DEFENDANTS

For each “Other Defendant” Plaintiffs contend are additional parties and are liable or responsible for Plaintiffs’ damages alleged herein, Plaintiffs must identify by name each Defendant and its citizenship, and Plaintiffs must plead the specific facts supporting any claim against each “Other Defendant” in a manner complying with the requirements of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. In doing so, Plaintiffs may attach additional pages to this Short-Form Complaint.

The following Defendants have already been named and answered the Consolidated Master DAP Complaint. Plaintiffs name them here for completeness.

Name	Citizenship
Multiplan Corp. NKA Claritev Corporation	New York

Viant, Inc.	Illinois
Viant Payment Systems, Inc.	Illinois
National Care Network, LP	Texas
National Care Network, LLC	Texas
Medical Audit & Review Solutions, Inc.	Texas

Plaintiffs expect discovery to reveal further information about the identity and role of additional Co-Conspirators in the MultiPlan Cartel. Plaintiffs reserve the right to amend their Complaint or join additional Defendants.

DESIGNATED FORUM

4. For Direct Filed Cases: Identify the Federal District Court in which the Plaintiffs would have filed in the absence of direct filing: **Northern District of Illinois.**
5. For Transferred Cases: Identify the Federal District Court in which the Plaintiffs originally filed and the date of filing: **N/A**

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

6. Subject Matter Jurisdiction is based on:

	Diversity of Citizenship
X	Federal Question
X	Other (The basis of any additional grounds for jurisdiction must be pled in sufficient detail as required by the applicable Federal Rules of Civil Procedure): Supplemental Jurisdiction (28 U.S.C. § 1367). Plaintiffs attach Exhibit A in support of the propriety of venue in the Northern District of Illinois and the Court's jurisdiction over the instant claims.

FACTS AND INJURIES ASSERTED

7. Plaintiffs adopt all paragraphs of the Consolidated Master DAP Complaint by reference, except for the allegations set forth in any cause of action that Plaintiffs do not adopt (as indicated below).
8. Plaintiffs adopt and allege as injuries resulting from the challenged conduct the injuries to DAPs set forth in the Consolidated Master DAP Complaint.
9. Plaintiffs attach Exhibit B describing additional antitrust injuries suffered as a result of Defendants' conspiracy.

ADDITIONAL FACTS DEMONSTRATING STANDING TO BRING CAUSES OF ACTION

10. Plaintiffs allege the following additional facts in support of their standing to bring causes of action:

Plaintiffs attach Exhibit B in further support of their standing to bring the asserted causes of action.

CAUSES OF ACTION ASSERTED

11. Plaintiffs adopt and assert the following Causes of Action alleged in the Consolidated Master DAP Complaint, and the allegations with regard thereto, against the Defendants identified above (*check all that are adopted*).

Check all that apply	Count	Cause of Action	Law pursuant to which the cause of action is asserted in the Master Complaint
x	I	Horizontal Agreements in Restraint of Trade (Section 1 of the Sherman Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1)	Federal Law
x	II	Hub-And-Spoke Agreement in Restraint of Trade (Section 1 of the Sherman Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1)	Federal Law
x	III	Principal-Agent Combinations in Restraint of Trade (Section 1 of the Sherman Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1)	Federal Law
x	IV	Agreements to Unreasonably Restrain Trade (Section 1 of the Sherman Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1)	Federal Law
x	V	Anticompetitive Information Exchange (Section 1 of the Sherman Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1)	Federal Law
x	VI	Violation of State and D.C. Antitrust Statutes	State Law
x	VII	Violation of State Consumer Protection Laws	State Law
	VIII	Unjust Enrichment	State Common Law

NOTE

If Plaintiffs want to allege additional Causes of Action other than those selected in the preceding paragraph, which are the Causes of Action set forth in the Master Complaint, the facts supporting those additional Causes of Action, must be pled in a manner complying with the requirements of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. In doing so, Plaintiffs may attach additional pages to this Short-Form Complaint.

ADDITIONAL CAUSES OF ACTION

12. Plaintiffs assert the following additional Causes of Action and supporting allegations against the following Defendants: N/A

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

13. Check all that apply:

x	WHEREFORE , Plaintiffs pray for all available compensatory damages, treble damages, punitive damages in amounts to be proven at trial, and judgment against Defendants and all such further relief that this Court deems equitable and just as set forth in the Master Complaint, and any additional relief to which Plaintiffs may be entitled, including disgorgement.
x	WHEREFORE , Plaintiffs pray for declaratory and injunctive relief and judgment against Defendants and all such further relief that this Court deems equitable and just as set forth in the Master Complaint, and any additional relief to which Plaintiffs may be entitled.

JURY DEMAND

x	Plaintiffs hereby demand a trial by jury as to all claims in this action.
	Plaintiffs do not demand a trial by jury as to all claims in this action.

By signature below, Plaintiffs' counsel hereby confirms their submission to the authority and jurisdiction of the United States District Court of the Northern District of Illinois and oversight of counsel's duties under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 11, including enforcement as necessary through sanctions and/or revocation of pro hac vice status.

Date: July 20, 2026

DUANE MORRIS LLP

/s/ Sean S. Zabaneh

Sean S. Zabaneh
Sean P. McConnell
Sarah O’Laughlin Kulik
DUANE MORRIS LLP
30 South 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103
P: 215 979 1149
SSZabaneh@duanemorris.com
SPMcconnell@duanemorris.com
SCKulik@duanemorris.com

and

Rebecca Bazan
DUANE MORRIS LLP
Washington, D.C. 20001
P: 202 766 7800
REBazan@duanemorris.com

and

John D. Cooke
DUANE MORRIS LLP
Chicago, IL 60603
P: 312 499 6700
JDCooke@duanemorris.com
Attorney ID: 6354591

Counsel for Plaintiffs

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned attorney certifies that on July 20, 2026, he electronically filed a copy of the attached via the CM/ECF filing system, which sent notification of such filing to all Filing Users.

Date: July 20, 2026

DUANE MORRIS LLP

/s/ Sean S. Zabaneh

Sean S. Zabaneh

Sean P. McConnell

Sarah O’Laughlin Kulik

DUANE MORRIS LLP

30 South 17th Street

Philadelphia, PA 19103

P: 215 979 1149

SSZabaneh@duanemorris.com

SPMcconnell@duanemorris.com

SCKulik@duanemorris.com

and

Rebecca Bazan

DUANE MORRIS LLP

Washington, D.C. 20001

P: 202 766 7800

REBazan@duanemorris.com

and

John D. Cooke

DUANE MORRIS LLP

Chicago, IL 60603

P: 312 499 6700

JDCooke@duanemorris.com

Attorney ID: 6354591

Counsel for Plaintiffs

Exhibit A

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

1. This Court has federal question jurisdiction over Plaintiffs' federal claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1337(a) because Plaintiffs bring their claims under §§ 4 and 16 of the Clayton Act (15 U.S.C. § 15, 26), to recover treble damages and costs of suit, including reasonable attorneys' fees, and injunctive relief against the Defendants for the harm caused by Defendants' violations of § 1 of the Sherman Act (15 U.S.C. § 1). The Court has supplemental jurisdiction over Plaintiffs' state law claims, including the Illinois state antitrust law claims, under 28 U.S.C. § 1367 because those claims are so related to the federal claims as to form part of the same case or controversy.

2. This Court has personal jurisdiction over MultiPlan because MultiPlan has substantial operations in Naperville, Illinois, including employees there who are involved in operating MultiPlan's common pricing methodology for out-of-network services. Acts and omissions alleged herein occurred at MultiPlan's office in Naperville, Illinois. Further, Multiplan operates nationally, transacting business throughout the United States, including in this District (including repricing claims for out-of-network healthcare services at facilities in this District), and is engaging in the alleged antitrust conspiracy, which has a direct, foreseeable, and intended effect of causing injury to the business or property of persons and entities residing in, located in, or doing business throughout the United States, including in this District.

3. This Court has personal jurisdiction over the other named Defendants because each of them—in furtherance of their conspiracy to fix prices—paid compensation to MultiPlan and provided data to MultiPlan at its office in Naperville, Illinois and participated in an antitrust conspiracy, which has a direct, foreseeable, and intended effect of causing injury to the business and property of persons and entities residing in, located in, or doing business throughout the United States, including in the state of Illinois.

4. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to Section 12 of the Clayton Act, 15 U.S.C. § 22, and under the federal venue statute, 28 U.S.C. § 1391, because all Defendants have transacted business within the District by virtue of their relationship with MultiPlan and a substantial portion of the unlawful acts giving rise to this action occurred in this District.

Exhibit B

ADDITIONAL FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS: ANTITRUST INJURY AND STANDING

I. Plaintiffs Have Been Underpaid for Out-of-Network Services as a Result of Defendants' Violations of the Antitrust Laws

1. Plaintiffs are full-service diagnostic laboratories which provide toxicology, hematology, immunochemistry, and other comprehensive chemistry testing services.

2. Plaintiffs have provided out-of-network goods and services to certain members of Defendants and other health insurance companies, and Plaintiffs have billed for those out-of-network goods and services. Plaintiffs have been paid less for those out-of-network goods and services than they would have been paid but for Defendants' anticompetitive conduct, and the Plaintiffs have been injured as a result of Defendants' violations of the antitrust laws as set forth in the Consolidated Master DAP Complaint.

II. The MultiPlan Cartel's Artificially Depressed Prices Contaminated Industry-Wide Pricing

A. The Cartel Introduced Skewed Data to FAIR Health and Other Central Benchmark Databases

3. The anticompetitive effects of the MultiPlan Cartel extend beyond the artificially reduced prices paid by the approximately 700 payors that directly participate in the conspiracy. These artificially suppressed out-of-network reimbursement rates have contaminated central data repositories—including, for example, FAIR Health, Inc. ("FAIR Health")—that non-participating insurers rely on to determine out-of-network reimbursement levels. As a result, Defendants' price-fixing conspiracy has depressed out-of-network reimbursement rates paid to healthcare providers by all insurers, not merely those that directly use MultiPlan's pricing methodology.

4. There are roughly 1,100 insurance companies operating in the United States. Approximately 400 of those insurance companies may not use MultiPlan and instead use other means to determine the amounts they will pay healthcare providers for out-of-network goods and services. Some

insurance companies use Usual, Customary, and Reasonable (“UCR”) rates, which are typically between the 50th and 80th percentile of local charges for a particular service. Insurance companies that still use this benchmarking system typically calculate UCR rates using charge and payment data compiled by the independent non-profit organization FAIR Health.

5. FAIR Health was created in 2009 to collect, verify, and maintain insurers’ claims data and to calculate fair, transparent, and accurate UCR benchmarks for use by healthcare providers and insurers. FAIR Health was designed to replace the manipulated Ingenix database and to produce benchmarks that accurately reflected prevailing market rates.

6. The data that populates FAIR Health’s database and forms the basis of UCR benchmarks is derived from claims data submitted by insurers—including many members of the MultiPlan Cartel. Under the original consent decrees instituted following the New York Attorney General’s investigation of Ingenix, settling insurers were required to submit accurate, un-scrubbed charge data to FAIR Health. However, once the MultiPlan Cartel began systematically suppressing out-of-network reimbursement rates starting in approximately 2015, the claims data flowing from cartel members into FAIR Health’s database increasingly reflected the artificially depressed payment levels generated by the cartel’s elimination of competition.

7. The mechanism by which the MultiPlan Cartel contaminates FAIR Health and similar UCR databases is straightforward. Cartel members representing over 80% of all out-of-network payments by dollar volume in the United States use MultiPlan’s common pricing methodology to set out-of-network reimbursement amounts at levels far below pre-cartel market rates. Those artificially suppressed payment amounts are then reported to FAIR Health and other data aggregators as part of the ordinary course of claims data submission. Because FAIR Health’s UCR benchmarks are derived from the universe of reported claims data, the cartel’s suppressed payment levels systematically pull down the benchmark rates calculated using FAIR Health’s data.

8. As the vast majority of claims data submitted to FAIR Health and similar data aggregators now reflects the artificially depressed reimbursement rates generated by the MultiPlan Cartel, the UCR benchmarks produced by those aggregators have been dragged downward. Insurers that do not directly participate in the MultiPlan Cartel but rely on FAIR Health's UCR benchmarks to determine their out-of-network reimbursement rates therefore set those rates at artificially depressed levels—not because of natural market forces, but because the underlying benchmark data has been tainted by the cartel's coordinated price suppression.

B. The Cartel's Dominant Market Share Ensures Market-Wide Impact

9. The MultiPlan Cartel's dominant market position ensures that its artificially depressed prices affect the entire market for out-of-network goods and services, not merely transactions directly processed through MultiPlan. MultiPlan and its co-conspirators control approximately 80–90% of the national market for out-of-network reimbursement by dollar volume.

10. Coordinated price suppression in over 80% of a relevant market necessarily depresses average prices in that market. When the dominant group of insurers in a market collectively suppresses prices through coordinated conduct, the remaining non-participating insurers face distorted pricing conditions and respond like any rational, profit-maximizing firm by adjusting their reimbursement levels accordingly—whether by reference to contaminated benchmark data or other indicators of the new market equilibrium.

11. The cartel's activity has predictably affected overall market prices. Since cartel members abandoned FAIR Health and adopted MultiPlan's pricing methodology, reimbursement rates have decreased year-over-year. Prior to 2016, reimbursement rates typically rose over time, reflecting inflation and the increased costs of providing care.

C. Effective Cartels Necessarily Affect Non-Participants' Pricing

12. As the court explained in *In re: Cathode Ray Tube (CRT) Antitrust Litig.*, 2016 WL 6246736, at *6 (N.D. Cal. Oct. 26, 2016), “Successful cartels increase the market price for a price-fixed good, not just their own price (lest consumers subvert the conspiracy by purchasing from lower-priced competitors instead). The injuries that result from conspirators’ impact on the market are directly caused by their collusive conduct regardless of the supplier that sells the good.”

13. A robust body of economic scholarship establishes that when a cartel exercises market power, non-conspiring competitors’ pricing is necessarily affected. This is due, in part, to the fact that “[a] firm in the competitive fringe does not engage in strategic behavior. Instead, it accepts the prevailing price as an economic parameter beyond its influence.” Roger D. Blair and Virginia G. Maurer, *Umbrella Pricing and Antitrust Standing: An Economic Analysis*, No. 4 Utah Law Review (1982). In short, the small insurers operating outside of the cartel simply use the prevailing price set by the cartel as their new benchmark.

III. Plaintiffs Were Injured by Non-Participating Insurers’ Artificially Depressed Reimbursements

14. DAPs submitted claims for out-of-network goods and services not only to members of the MultiPlan Cartel but also to insurers that did not directly participate in the cartel’s pricing methodology. Those non-participating insurers set their out-of-network reimbursement rates as any rational market participant would: by reference to the price the market will bear. Insurers that did not participate in the cartel may have arrived at these prices by consulting FAIR Health UCR benchmarks, proprietary databases that incorporated the cartel’s tainted payment data, or other information. Regardless of how these market participants discovered market prices or gathered competitive intelligence, the result was the same: the prices they found were contaminated by the cartel’s coordinated price suppression.

15. As a direct, foreseeable, and proximate result of the MultiPlan Cartel’s price-fixing, DAPs received artificially depressed reimbursement rates from all insurers operating in a market marred by collusion. These depressed rates were not the product of competitive market forces or independent

decisions by competitors operating in a vacuum; they were the product of Defendants' anticompetitive conduct and corruption of the competitive process.

16. DAPs' injuries from non-participating insurers' suppressed reimbursement rates are of the type that the antitrust laws are intended to prevent. When a cartel controlling over 80% of a market systematically suppresses prices, the resulting market-wide depression in reimbursement levels is a direct and intended consequence of the conspiracy. As a result of Defendants' conduct, DAPs received significantly lower reimbursements for their out-of-network goods and services than they would have in a competitive market.