



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**UCare announces details of 2011 Pay for Performance Program  
that rewards providers for health improvements**

***Providers, regardless of practice size, are eligible for rewards for  
improving the health of UCare's Medicare and Medicaid members***

MINNEAPOLIS, May 2, 2011 -- [UCare](#) announced details today of its Pay for Performance (P4P) program for 2011. UCare designs its P4P program to reward providers and care systems of all sizes that exhibit superior or improved performance in several important health care quality measures for the health plan's Medicaid, Medicare, and Special Needs Plan members throughout Minnesota and western Wisconsin.

UCare's P4P criteria are selected to improve preventive care, identify health issues through screenings for various health risks and conditions, and achieve improved outcomes for chronic conditions such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease. Measures are based on specifications from the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS), Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), the Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS), the Institute of Clinical Systems Improvement (ICSI), and MN Community Measurement (MNCM).

Approximately 207,000 UCare members are enrolled in health plans eligible for 2011 P4P financial awards.

"UCare knows our providers aim for excellence in their care of our members. We are always very pleased to reward clinics and care systems in our extensive provider networks for their superior or improved delivery of care to members of our Minnesota Health Care Programs, Medicare programs, and Special Needs Plans," says Russel J. Kuzel, M.D., M.M.M., UCare's Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer. "We also are proud of our time-honored practice of rewarding systems large and small that achieve measurable gains over the previous year's achievements."

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Unlike most P4P programs that only reward providers meeting a significant threshold in an “all or none” fashion, UCare’s P4P program recognizes and rewards providers who meet or exceed measurement criteria, regardless of practice size. UCare’s P4P program offers a set amount to be paid to qualifying providers on a per-member basis. Providers who attain the 60th or greater percentile on measurement criteria qualify for a 100 percent payment from the plan. If the care system performance achieves the minimum required improvement from the previous year, but is not above the network 60<sup>th</sup> percentile, the system will receive half payment for all eligible members provided the service in the measurement year.

Program changes in 2011 include:

- Revised payment rates for some measures.
- A measure for controlling high blood pressure for Medicare Advantage, UCare’s Minnesota Senior Health Options (MSHO), and Minnesota Senior Care Plus (MSC Plus) populations.
- A modified minimum improvement goal for half payments.

**Preventive care is promoted, rewarded**

UCare’s P4P program rewards improvement in the following areas:

- Breast, cervical, and colorectal cancer screenings.
- Complete Child and Teen Checkups (C&TC).
- Blood lead screening in children.
- Chlamydia screening.
- Diabetes care – several management and improvement measures.
- Cardiovascular disease – several management and improvement measures.

To help providers deliver this preventive care, UCare provides clinics with the names of their UCare members who are eligible for this type of care. In 2011, UCare will analyze patient care claims and lab tests processed in 2010 for each provider against the P4P criteria, and issue financial awards accordingly in late 2011.

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**About UCare**

UCare ([www.ucare.org](http://www.ucare.org)) is an independent, nonprofit health plan providing health care and administrative services to more than 220,000 members. UCare partners with health care providers, counties, and community organizations to create and deliver innovative health coverage products for:

- Individuals and families enrolled in income-based Minnesota Health Care Programs, such as MinnesotaCare and Prepaid Medical Assistance Program.
- Adults with disabilities and Medicare beneficiaries with chronic health conditions.
- Minnesotans dually eligible for Medical Assistance and Medicare.
- Medicare-eligible individuals throughout Minnesota and in western Wisconsin.

UCare addresses health care disparities and care access issues through its UCare Fund grants and a broad array of community initiatives. The health plan received a Top Workplaces 2010 honor from the *Star Tribune*.

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