



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Deanne Probst
612-676-3630
dprobst@ucare.org

Alan Heaton, Pharm.D., R.Ph., joins UCare as Pharmacy Director

MINNEAPOLIS, April 20, 2009 – [UCare](#) has hired Alan Heaton, Pharm. D., R.Ph., as the organization's Pharmacy Director.

In his new position, Dr. Heaton is responsible for the strategic planning, project implementation, and fiscal management for all UCare pharmacy operations, medication management, and clinical pharmacy programs. He ensures compliance with all state and federal requirements related to the Medicare prescription drug benefit (Part D), and manages the business relationship and contract performance of UCare's pharmacy benefits manager and specialty pharmacy vendor.

Dr. Heaton reports to UCare's Senior Vice President of Operations, Laurie Dean.

UCare will benefit from Dr. Heaton's more than 20 years of experience in the medical and pharmaceutical fields. Before joining UCare, Dr. Heaton was Director of Pharmacy for BlueCross BlueShield of Minnesota, where he was responsible for all facets of the pharmacy benefit program for more than 3.1 million members in commercial, Medicaid, and Medicare Part D plans. Previously, Dr. Heaton was Vice President, Health Outcomes Integration, at Prime Therapeutics. There, he was responsible for directing medical and pharmacy data integration applications and outcomes research, such as retrospective database studies and clinical trials for a wide variety of therapeutic agents.

"Alan is a strong and skilled addition to UCare, and his extensive pharmacological knowledge will benefit our members and clinical oversight activities," said Dean. "His industry involvement and leadership will contribute greatly to UCare as we develop pharmacy systems and services for the future."

Besides his clinical and managerial activities, Dr. Heaton is a Clinical Assistant Professor at the College of Pharmacy, University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, where he lectures on various disease states and relationship to drug therapy. He is an Adjunct Clinical Instructor at the School of Public Health, also at the University.

Dr. Heaton earned a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy in 1973 and a Doctor of Pharmacy in 1975 from the University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy. From 1975 to 1993, Dr. Heaton was Clinical Specialist of Critical Care and Manager, Pharmacy, for United and Children's Hospitals, Inc., in St. Paul, Minn.

Many professional associations count him as a member, including the International Society of Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research, the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy, the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists, and many local and state pharmacy associations. Dr. Heaton currently serves on the Minnesota Department of Human Services Drug Formulary Committee and the Medication Therapy Management Committee. He also serves on the editorial boards of several professional journals.

Dr. Heaton and his family live in Shoreview, Minn.

About UCare

UCare (www.ucare.org) is an independent, nonprofit health plan providing health care and administrative services to more than 160,000 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 for Seniors, UCare's Medicare Advantage plan, is ranked by Medicare in the top 13 percent of health plans nationwide for outstanding performance. UCare addresses health care disparities and care access issues through its UCare Fund grants and a broad array of community initiatives.

###