



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Patricia Ball joins UCare as Product Management and Development Director**

MINNEAPOLIS, Jan. 4, 2010 – [UCare](#) has hired Patricia Ball as the organization’s Product Management and Development Director. Ball previously was Portfolio Manager, Whole Person Health Support, in the Product Management department at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota in Eagan.

In her new position, Ball is responsible for planning and executing UCare’s product management and performance improvement efforts. Ball also oversees the work of three Product Managers and chairs UCare’s Business Strategies Committee.

Ball reports to Tom Mahowald, UCare’s Senior Vice President, Product Management.

Ball has close to 20 years of experience in health care product development, research, and information services. She held several positions at Blue Cross including duties as Vice President, Product Development, for the Consumer Aware product portfolio; Manager of Healthcare Informatics; and as a Principal Business Analyst in the IT division. Prior to her years at Blue Cross, she held positions at two UnitedHealth Group divisions including Manager of Analytical and Consulting Services at Ingenix, and EAP Product Manager at OptumHealth. Previous health care employers include Summit Medical, Minnetonka; Velocity Healthcare Informatics, Minnetonka; and InterStudy/Health Outcomes Institute, Bloomington.

“Patricia’s wealth of experience in health care product analysis and development will contribute greatly to UCare,” said Mahowald. “We look forward to her contributions and leadership as we develop and deliver programs that benefit current and prospective members of our Minnesota Health Care Programs and Medicare products.”

Ball holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Biology from St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minn. She currently is pursuing a Master of Public Affairs degree from the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota-Minneapolis campus.

Ball and her family live in the Macalester-Groveland community in St. Paul, Minn.

### **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 185,000 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.

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