



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**MEDIA CONTACT:**

Deanne Probst

612-676-3630

[dprobst@ucare.org](mailto:dprobst@ucare.org)

## **UCare announces 2008 Pay for Performance awards**

***More than \$2 million paid to providers improving the health of UCare's Medicare and Medicaid members; figure is up 58 percent from 2007***

MINNEAPOLIS, Nov. 30, 2009 — [UCare](#)'s Pay for Performance (P4P) program paid **\$2,445,250** to clinics and care systems across Minnesota for their performance in key quality-of-health measurements achieved in 2008. The payments recognized and rewarded providers for superior or improved performance in measurable key areas for care delivered to members of UCare's Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP), including MinnesotaCare and Prepaid Medical Assistance Program (PMAP), and to members of UCare's [UCare for Seniors](#) Medicare Advantage plan.

UCare's Pay for Performance program rewards providers of all sizes who show superior or improved performance in key quality-of-health measurements for UCare members. UCare's payments for improvements in key measurements in 2008 increased 58 percent over 2007 results. This healthy increase came primarily from clinics and care systems that have historically participated in UCare's P4P program, and that in 2008 increased their achievement of quality improvement and preventive health measure performances.

UCare made P4P payments to:

- 546 eligible care systems and independent clinics serving MHCP members. Total MHCP payments were **\$1,499,800**, an increase of 46 percent from 2007.
- 365 eligible care systems and independent clinics serving members of *UCare for Seniors* Medicare Advantage plan. Total Medicare payments were **\$945,450**, an 82 percent rise in payments from 2007.

The top five clinics receiving P4P payments for **Medicaid** are:

1. [Fairview Physicians Associates](#)
2. [Neighborhood Health Care Network](#)
3. [Children's Physician Network](#)

4. [University Minnesota Physicians](#)
5. [Allina](#)

The top five clinics receiving P4P payments for **Medicare** are:

1. [Fairview Physicians Associates](#)
2. [HealthEast Care System](#)
3. [Columbia Park Medical Group \(CPMG\)](#), which merged with Fairview Health Services in January 2009.
4. [Aspen Medical Group](#)
5. [North Clinic](#)

### **UCare's P4P program differs from others in Minnesota**

“The increase in Pay for Performance payments means more of our members are receiving high-quality care and screenings from our providers,” says Barry Baines, M.D., UCare’s Chief Medical Officer. “We noted a heightened interest in the program this year, which led to a healthy boost in participation and measurable results achieved by our valued providers.

“UCare’s program is different from most Pay for Performance programs because every provider – large and small – is eligible for payments,” Dr. Baines continues. “We reward providers with results above the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile threshold; there’s no ‘all or none’ approach. Any clinic or care system posting improvements over the previous year’s performance also is rewarded, although these payments are one-half of the payments made to clinics above the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile threshold.”

For UCare’s state public program population in Minnesota, 2008 P4P payments were made based on the achievement of goals for:

- Well child visits for children age 3-6 years (new in 2008)
- Well child visits for children age 12-21 years (new in 2008)
- Colon cancer screening (new in 2008)
- Blood pressure lab (new in 2008)
- Two-year-olds up-to-date on immunizations (Combo 2)
- Blood lead testing
- Diabetes care
- Mammography
- Chlamydia screening

For *UCare for Seniors* Medicare Advantage members, 2007 P4P payments were made based on the achievement of goals set for:

- Colon cancer screening (new in 2008)
- Blood pressure lab (new in 2008)
- Mammography
- Diabetes care
- Cardiovascular disease care: LDL cholesterol screening

UCare will continue to recognize and reward superior performance and improvements by MHCP and Medicare providers of all sizes.

### **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.

###