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UCare announces 2006 Pay for Performance awards

***Program rewards all providers, regardless of practice size,
who improve health of UCare's Medicare and Medicaid members***

MINNEAPOLIS, Nov. 5, 2007 — [UCare](#)'s Pay for Performance program paid \$1.25 million to clinics and care systems across Minnesota that posted improvements in key quality-of-health measurements achieved in 2006. The payments recognized and rewarded providers for “superior or improved performance” in measurable key areas for care delivered to UCare members of Minnesota Health Care Programs and UCare's *UCare for Seniors* Medicare Advantage plan.

UCare's Pay for Performance (P4P) program rewards providers of all sizes who show “superior or improved performance” in key quality-of-health measurements for UCare members. A significant number of UCare network providers received P4P incentives.

- UCare made P4P payments to 79 percent of eligible care systems serving its Minnesota Health Care Programs (MCHP) members. Total MCHP payments were approximately \$620,000.
- UCare paid 61 percent of eligible care systems and independent clinics serving its Medicare members—a percent significantly higher than results in 2005. Total Medicare payments were approximately \$630,000.

The top five clinic systems serving UCare's Medicare product members and receiving UCare's P4P payments for 2006 results were North Clinic, HealthEast Care System, Aspen Medical Group, Provider Services Network (PSN), and Fairview Partners. The top five clinic systems serving UCare's Medicaid product members and receiving UCare's P4P payments for 2006 results were Allina Medical Clinic, Provider Services Network, University of Minnesota Physicians, Neighborhood Health Care Network, and Children's Physician Network.

UCare's P4P program differs from others in Minnesota

“UCare’s Pay for Performance program is different than other major plans’ programs in two ways,” said Barry Baines, M.D., UCare’s Chief Medical Officer. “First, while most Pay for Performance programs only reward providers who meet a significant threshold in an ‘all or none’ fashion, UCare’s program rewards systems that post improvements over the previous year’s care delivery standards. We make full payment to providers whose results in the key areas are at or above the 75th percentile threshold of the prior year’s performance. We also make half payments to providers posting improvements measured at less than the 75th percentile threshold from the previous year.”

“Second,” continued Dr. Baines, “To our knowledge, no other major health plan’s Pay for Performance program in Minnesota is available to providers of all sizes. We’ve learned that we can best serve our 130,000-plus members by offering this opportunity to every provider in our provider networks. It’s an important way we encourage clinics and care systems large and small to deliver outstanding care that helps our members realize a better quality of life.”

For UCare’s Minnesota Health Care Program population, 2006 P4P payments were made based on the achievement of goals for:

- Two-year-olds up-to-date on immunizations.
- Blood lead testing.
- Diabetes care.
- Asthma care.
- Chlamydia screening.

For UCare’s *UCare for Seniors* Medicare Advantage members, 2006 P4P payments were made based on the achievement of goals set for:

- Mammography.
- Diabetes care.
- Influenza vaccination.

UCare’s P4P program for 2007 for Minnesota Health Care Programs members contains many elements from the 2006 program and adds several items in children and women’s preventive services. For Medicare Advantage members, flu shots were eliminated and cholesterol control for members with heart disease was added. UCare will continue to recognize and reward superior performance and improvements by its MCHP and Medicare providers of all sizes.

About UCare

UCare is an independent, nonprofit health plan providing health care and administrative services to more than 130,000 members throughout Minnesota. UCare provides health care programs for people with Medicare: *UCare for Seniors*, a Medicare Advantage product; Minnesota Senior Health Options, a program for seniors with Medical Assistance but who may or may not be eligible for Medicare; *UCare Complete*, a Minnesota Disability Health Options (MnDHO) program for people with physical disabilities; and *Partners Choice Network*, a MnDHO pilot program for people with developmental disabilities. UCare also offers income-based health programs to people enrolled in Minnesota Health Care Programs, including Prepaid Medical Assistance, Prepaid General Assistance Medical Care, MinnesotaCare, and Minnesota Senior Care. For more information, visit www.ucare.org.

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