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**UCare announces details of 2008 Pay for Performance Program
that rewards providers for health improvements**

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

MINNEAPOLIS, Feb. 12, 2008 -- [UCare](#) announced details today of its 2008 Pay for Performance (P4P) program, designed to reward providers for achieving high-ranking performance or improvement in several important measures of health care quality.

UCare has allocated \$2.5 million for distribution among provider systems that meet P4P criteria in 2008 designed to improve the delivery of health care services to UCare members throughout Minnesota. Based on achievement of criteria, payments will be made in 2009.

UCare's P4P program is continuing its practice of recognizing and rewarding 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 50th or greater percentile on measurement criteria qualify for a 100 percent payment from the plan. For those providers who can demonstrate any improvement over the previous year's measures, UCare will make a 50 percent payment.

"UCare's Pay for Performance program focuses on providing financial recognition for clinic systems that exhibit high-ranking or improved performance," says Barry Baines, M.D., UCare's Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer. "While most programs only reward providers who meet a significant threshold in an 'all or none' fashion, UCare's program pays systems large and small that post improvements over the previous year's care delivery standards. This approach enables us to support every clinic and care system in our extensive provider networks as they work to improve patient care."

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More than 140,000 Minnesotans are enrolled in UCare's state public program plans and *UCare for Seniors* Medicare Advantage product. For its state public program population, UCare's P4P program includes criteria for improvement in the following areas:

- Two-year-olds up to date on immunizations.
- Well-child visits in the first 15 months of life.
- Well-child visits in the third, fourth, fifth and sixth years of life.
- Adolescent well-care visits.
- Blood lead screen testing.
- Chlamydia screening.
- Breast cancer screening.
- Cervical cancer screening.
- Colorectal cancer screening.
- Diabetes care.

For its Medicare membership, UCare measures progress in these areas of care delivery:

- Breast cancer screening.
- Colorectal cancer screening.
- Diabetes care.
- Cardiovascular disease, LDL, and blood pressure screenings.

Throughout 2008, UCare will provide clinics with the names of members in their care who have not yet received services in the key areas. This service will enable the clinics to contact and care for these individuals.

About UCare

UCare (www.ucare.org) is an independent, nonprofit health plan providing health care and administrative services to more than 140,000 members. UCare partners with health care providers, counties, community organizations, and other member-directed groups to create and deliver innovative health coverage plans for:

- Medicare-eligible individuals throughout Minnesota and in western Wisconsin.
- 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.

In 2007, UCare's *UCare for Seniors* Medicare Advantage plan ranked in the top 8 percent of health plans nationwide for outstanding performance. UCare addressed health care disparities and care access issues through its UCare Fund grants and a broad array of community initiatives.