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**UCare announces details of 2009 Pay for Performance Program
that rewards providers for health improvements**

***All providers, regardless of practice size, are eligible for rewards for
improving the health of UCare's Medicare and Medicaid members***

MINNEAPOLIS, March 12, 2009 -- [UCare](#) announced details today of its [2009 Pay for Performance](#) (P4P) program. UCare designs its P4P to reward providers for achieving a high-ranking performance or improvements in several important health care quality measures for the health plan's Medicaid and Medicare members throughout Minnesota.

UCare has allocated \$2.5 million for distribution in 2010 among provider systems that meet P4P criteria in 2009. The criteria are selected to improve preventive care, identify health issues through screenings for various health risks, and achieve improved outcomes for chronic conditions such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

New in 2009 is the expansion of the P4P program to include members of [UCare's Minnesota Senior Health Options](#) (MSHO) product. MSHO is a state public program that combines Medicare and Medicaid benefits for people ages 65 and older who are eligible for Medical Assistance (MA) and are enrolled in Medicare Parts A and B, or who have MA only. Previously, eligibility for P4P awards applied to providers caring for members of UCare's Prepaid Medical Assistance Program (PMAP), Prepaid General Assistance Medical Care (PGAMC), MinnesotaCare, Minnesota Senior Care (now Minnesota Senior Care Plus), and *UCare for Seniors* Medicare Advantage products in Minnesota. Approximately 151,000 of UCare's more than 160,000 members are enrolled in products eligible for 2009 P4P financial rewards.

UCare's P4P program continues to recognize and reward providers who meet or exceed measurement criteria, regardless of practice size. It offers a set amount to be paid to qualifying providers on a per-member basis. Providers who attain the 60th 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 knows our providers strive for excellence. That’s why we’re very pleased to reward clinics and care systems in our extensive provider networks for their superior or improved delivery of care to members of our Medicaid, Medicare, and, now, UCare’s Minnesota Senior Health Options products,” says [Barry Baines, M.D.](#), UCare’s Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer. “UCare also is proud to continue our long-time practice of rewarding systems large and small that post improvements over the previous year’s care delivery standards. This approach is unlike most programs that only reward providers meeting a significant threshold in an ‘all or none’ fashion.”

Program aims at improving preventive care

UCare’s P4P program includes criteria for improvement in the following areas:

- For UCare’s MHCP, Medicare, and MSHO populations:
 - Breast cancer and colorectal cancer screenings
 - Diabetes care – several management and improvement measures

- For its Medicare and MSHO populations only:
 - Cardiovascular Disease – blood pressure control, cholesterol management

- For its MHCP populations only:
 - 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 screening in children
 - Chlamydia screening
 - Cervical cancer screening

To help providers deliver this preventive care, UCare provides clinics with the names of their UCare members who are eligible for this type of care. In 2010, UCare will analyze patient care claims and lab tests processed in 2009 for each provider against the P4P criteria, and issue financial awards accordingly in late 2010.

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:

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- 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, was 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.

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