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UCare announces 2007 Pay for Performance awards

Program rewards all providers, regardless of practice size, who improve health of UCare's Medicare and Medicaid members; 2008 P4P program adds more preventive elements

MINNEAPOLIS, Dec. 18, 2008 — [UCare](#)'s Pay for Performance (P4P) program paid **\$1,544,750** to clinics and care systems across Minnesota for their performance in key quality-of-health measurements achieved in 2007. 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](#) (MHCP) and [UCare for Seniors](#) Medicare Advantage plan.

Providers of all sizes who show superior or improved performance in key quality-of-health measurements for UCare members qualify for and receive UCare's Pay for Performance program rewards.

UCare made P4P payments to:

- 60 percent of eligible care systems serving MHCP members. Total MHCP payments were **\$1,025,050**.
- 31 percent of eligible care systems and independent clinics serving members of *UCare for Seniors* Medicare Advantage plan. Total Medicare payments were **\$519,700**.

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

- [Allina](#)
- [University Minnesota Physicians](#)
- [Fairview Physicians Associates](#)
- [Children's Physician Network](#)
- [Neighborhood Health Care Network](#)

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

- [Fairview Physicians Associates](#)
- [Physicians Service Network](#)
- [Aspen Medical Group](#)
- [HealthEast Care System](#)
- [North Clinic](#)

UCare's P4P program differs from others in Minnesota

“UCare’s Pay for Performance program differs from many other programs in two ways,” said Barry Baines, M.D., UCare’s Chief Medical Officer. “First, 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 nearly 150,000 members by offering this opportunity to every provider in our provider network. It’s an important way we encourage clinics and care systems large and small to deliver outstanding care that helps our members realize better outcomes and ideally, a better quality of life.

“Second,” continued Dr. Baines, “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 are above the 50th percentile threshold for our provider network. In addition, any clinic or care system that posts improvements over the previous year’s performance will also be rewarded, although these payments are one-half of the payment of those clinics who are above the 50th percentile.”

For UCare’s MHCP population, 2007 P4P payments were made based on the achievement of goals for:

- Two-year-olds up-to-date on immunizations (Combo 2).
- Blood lead testing.
- Diabetes care.
- Mammography.
- Colon cancer screening.
- Chlamydia screening.

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

- Mammography.
- Diabetes care.
- Cardiovascular Disease Care: LDL cholesterol screening.

2008 P4P program adds preventive elements

UCare’s P4P program for 2008 for MHCP members contains many elements from the 2007 program and adds several items in children and women’s preventive services. Additionally, UCare will reward performance that demonstrates good control of blood sugar, blood pressure, and cholesterol for members with diabetes.

For Medicare Advantage members, UCare will reward performance that demonstrates the control of blood sugar, blood pressure, and cholesterol for members with diabetes, and cholesterol and blood pressure control for patients with heart disease.

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) is an independent, nonprofit health plan providing health care and administrative services to nearly 150,000 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 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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