

Sept. 1, 2011

Changes to *UCare Connect* Plan in 2012

Beginning Jan. 1, 2012, the Department of Human Services (DHS) will move people with disabilities enrolled in fee-for-service Medical Assistance into a Special Needs BasicCare (SNBC) plan. These individuals will be required to enroll in managed care; however they will also be able to opt out of managed care and remain in fee-for-service Medical Assistance, if they choose.

UCare is well positioned to expand membership in our SNBC plan, *UCare Connect*. We bring years of experience, innovative thinking, and an infrastructure designed to cover care for people with complex needs.

Federal Medicare payments continue to be inadequate to cover the Medicare costs of our dual-eligible members with disabilities. In order to sustain the program and continue to offer value to our members, we have decided to remove the Medicare component from *UCare Connect* and change it to a Medical Assistance-only program in 2012. *UCare Connect* members may or may not be Medicare eligible.

We believe that keeping *UCare Connect* as a State Public Program plan is the best way to preserve coordinated services for our members and prospective members with disabilities. UCare will continue to partner with our providers, delegated case coordinators, the counties, state, and community agencies to help our members maintain their health and independence, and help our dual members navigate their Medicare and Part D prescription benefit options.

Please remember that there are several ways you can check a member's eligibility and determine if a member has primary insurance. One of the ways is through the UCare Provider Portal, a secure web site for UCare providers to verify member eligibility, or check the status of a claim and/or referral/authorization. Visit our web site at www.ucare.org/providers/Pages/ProviderPortal.aspx to login or register as a new administrator, if your organization does not currently have an existing account.

Stay tuned! In the near future, UCare will host WebEx teleconferences regarding the changes to *UCare Connect* and what impact this may have on your organization. An invitation will be sent to you with the details of the WebEx teleconference; however, if you have questions in the mean time, please call the Provider Assistance Center at **612-676-3300** or **1-888-531-1493** (toll free).

For the latest news and updates, check out our web site at www.ucare.org/providers.

UCare is now on Facebook! We're easy to find at www.facebook.com/UCarehealthplan. If you have a Facebook account, click "Like" and connect with us to receive regular postings about UCare's health, wellness, and community activities.