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UCare for Seniors Medicare plan highly rated in two national quality assessments

**National Committee for Quality Assurance gives
UCare for Seniors *high consumer satisfaction, overall scores*;
U.S. News & World Report names UCare for Seniors among
“Best Medicare Advantage Plans” in Minnesota**

MINNEAPOLIS, Oct. 21, 2016 — [UCare](#) announced today that its [UCare for Seniors](#) Medicare plan is ranked among the highest quality health insurance plans in the country by two national organizations.



The [National Committee for Quality Assurance](#) (NCQA)'s [national ratings](#) system awarded *UCare for Seniors* a score of 4.5 out of 5 for Consumer Satisfaction and a rating of 4.5 out of 5 overall in NCQA's Medicare Health Insurance Plan Ratings 2016-2017. The Consumer Satisfaction category represents *UCare for Seniors* members' opinions of their care, experience, and physicians.

UCare for Seniors also was named to U.S. News & World Report's list of [Best Medicare Plans for 2017](#) based on the 4.5 out of 5 star rating *UCare for Seniors* earned from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

“Medicare beneficiaries are looking closely at excellence and value when selecting their Medicare coverage for 2017. We are very pleased that the quality and value of our *UCare for Seniors* Medicare Advantage plan has been recognized with high ratings from the National Committee for Quality Assurance and U.S. News & World Report,” said Jim Eppel, President and CEO, UCare. “These strong ratings affirm UCare is a high-performing health plan that is delivering outstanding coverage and services to satisfied Medicare members in Minnesota.”

Among NCQA's highest rated health plans in the nation

This is the second consecutive year in which UCare's Medicare plan was among the nation's highest rated health plans in NCQA's national ratings. NCQA studied 1,401 health plans and rated 1,012: 503 private (commercial), 338 Medicare and 171 Medicaid. The ratings are a system similar to CMS Star Ratings of Medicare Advantage plans, and give unprecedented importance to health outcomes and consumer satisfaction.

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“Excellent” NCQA Health Plan Accreditation active 2014-2016

UCare retains its “Excellent” Health Plan Accreditation status for its Minnesota *UCare for Seniors* Medicare plans in 2016, an honor first received by UCare in 2014. Excellent is the highest level of accreditation possible from NCQA.

Among “Best in Minnesota” in U.S. News & World Report ratings

In the U.S. News & World Report’s [Best Medicare Plans for 2017](#) list, *UCare for Seniors* Classic, Essentials Rx, Prime, Value and Value Plus options were recognized with Highest Overall Rating, Highest Wellness Care and Highest Customer Service ratings for [Medicare Advantage Plus Prescription Drug Plans](#). The *UCare for Seniors* Value option was honored in the “Highest Overall Rating,” “Wellness Care” and “Customer Service” categories for [Medicare Advantage plans](#). *UCare for Seniors* plans are available statewide; different plan options are offered in regional service areas.

U.S. News used data from CMS, including its rating of each Medicare Advantage plan. CMS scores each Medicare plan from 1 to 5 stars, in half-star intervals. For an insurer to make the U.S. News list, its Medicare Advantage plans available in a given state had to earn an average rating of at least 4.5 out of 5 stars, and all its plans in the state had to earn at least 3 stars. This assures that companies on its "Best" list maintain a consistent quality across all their plans.

About NCQA

National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to improving health care quality. NCQA accredits and certifies a wide range of health care organizations and recognizes clinicians in key clinical areas. NCQA's HEDIS[®] is the most widely used performance measurement tool in health care. NCQA's Web site (www.ncqa.org) contains information to help consumers, employers and others make more informed health care choices.

About UCare

UCare (www.ucare.org) is an independent, not-for-profit health plan providing health care and administrative services to members throughout Minnesota. UCare partners with health care providers, counties and community organizations to create and deliver:

- National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA)-[accredited plans](#) for Minnesotans shopping on [MNsure](#).
- Plans for [adults with disabilities who have Medical Assistance](#) and who have [both Medical Assistance and Medicare](#).

- [Medicare plans](#) with an “Excellent” NCQA rating, and a [partnership](#) with Essentia Health in northern Minnesota.
- [Programs for older Minnesotans with Medical Assistance or with both Medical Assistance and Medicare.](#)
- Income-based [Medicaid](#) and [MinnesotaCare](#) coverage for Olmsted County residents.

UCare addresses health care disparities and care access issues through grants and a broad array of community initiatives. UCare has received Top Workplaces honors from the Star Tribune for seven consecutive years since the rankings began in 2010.

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