



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**UCare launches UCare Connect + Medicare
a new health plan that simplifies coverage for
dually eligible adults with disabilities**

Integrated health plan will serve adults in 10 metro counties and Olmsted County who are eligible for [Special Needs BasicCare](#) and Medicare; is expansion of UCare's [UCare Connect](#) plan expertise

MINNEAPOLIS, Oct. 7, 2016 – [UCare](#), a not-for-profit health plan, introduces a new health plan designed to serve Minnesotans dually eligible for Medicaid-only [Special Needs BasicCare \(SNBC\)](#) coverage and Medicare. Called [UCare Connect + Medicare](#), the new plan will be available Jan. 1, 2017, to qualifying adults living in Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, Sherburne, Stearns, Washington and Wright counties in the metro area and Olmsted County in southeastern Minnesota.

UCare Connect + Medicare helps simplify coverage for Medicare- and Medicaid-eligible adults with certified physical, developmental and/or mental health disabilities because it combines their Medical Assistance, Medicare and prescription drug coverage benefits into one easy-to-use plan.

UCare Connect + Medicare offers comprehensive health coverage and value-added benefits such as free membership in participating health clubs in the Healthways SilverSneakers® network. Qualifying members pay no monthly premium, may have small copays for select services, and have access to a broad and inclusive provider network of medical and dental providers.

“People with disabilities can now manage their care easier with *UCare Connect + Medicare*,” said Ghita Worcester, Senior Vice President of Public Affairs and Chief Marketing Officer, UCare. “Our long history of serving this community enabled us to design a plan that simplifies the care process and helps improve health. *UCare Connect + Medicare* members will receive Medicaid and Medicare benefits and services to which they are entitled, and enjoy a care management model well-matched to the level of care they require.”

UCare Connect + Medicare is an extension of UCare's expertise in serving people with certified disabilities. UCare has offered its [UCare Connect](#) plan since 2008; the plan presently serves eligible adults in 62 Minnesota counties. UCare also offered a first-of-its-kind coverage plan for people with disabilities in the early 2000s.

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UCare helps members retain eligibility for their *UCare Connect* and *UCare Connect + Medicare* coverage. It is the only Minnesota health plan offering Retention Specialists who help SNBC members prepare and submit documents and materials required to avoid interruptions in members' coverage and receipt of care.

UCare Connect and *UCare Connect + Medicare* are part of the State of Minnesota's Special Needs BasicCare (SNBC) program administered by Minnesota's Department of Human Services (DHS). SNBC is a voluntary managed care program for people ages 18-64 with certified disabilities and enrolled in Medical Assistance (Medicaid) coverage with or without Medicare Parts A and B.

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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UCare's UCare Connect + Medicare service area map effective Jan. 1, 2017.

