



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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UCare approved to expand Special Needs BasicCare for adults with disabilities in state

Addition of 20 counties creates 62-county service area
for the health plan's UCare Connect offering

MINNEAPOLIS, June 10, 2016 – UCare, a not-for-profit health plan, will expand the service area of its Medicaid-only UCare Connect Special Needs BasicCare (SNBC) offering from 42 to 62 Minnesota counties on July 1, 2016.

UCare was approved to expand *UCare Connect* to 20 primarily northern and north-central Minnesota counties as a result of an SNBC plan procurement process conducted by Minnesota's Department of Human Services (DHS) in early 2016.

The expansion helps fill the coverage gap left by another Minnesota health plan, which withdrew SNBC service in 31 counties, effective July 1, 2016.

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. The plan serves people with physical and developmental disabilities and/or mental illness. DHS administers SNBC statewide and contracts with health plans to deliver SNBC coverage. Members pay no premiums to use the health care benefits of the program.

“UCare has a long history of health plan innovation and service to Minnesotans with disabilities. We are pleased to have earned the opportunity to extend *UCare Connect*'s high-quality health care and customer service to Minnesotans eligible for this coverage,” said Ghita Worcester, UCare's Senior Vice President of Public Affairs and Chief Marketing Officer.

UCare was awarded SNBC service in 20 counties: Aitkin, Becker, Cass, Clay, Cook, Crow Wing, Itasca, Kittson, Koochiching, Lake, Lake of the Woods, Mahnommen, Marshall, Norman, Otter Tail, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake, Roseau, and Wilkin.

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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](#).
- [Coverage for adults with disabilities](#).
- [Medicare plans](#) with an “Excellent” NCQA rating, and a [new 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 its [UCare Foundation](#) grants and a broad array of community initiatives. UCare has received Top Workplaces honors from the Star Tribune for six consecutive years since the rankings began in 2010.

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UCare's UCare Connect service area map for July 1, 2016.

