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UCare Mobile Dental Clinic returns to serve UCare members in Minnesota

Partnership with University of Minnesota School of Dentistry sustained with grant; service is available to eligible members of all UCare plans

MINNEAPOLIS, Sept. 22, 2016 — [UCare](#) and the [University of Minnesota School of Dentistry](#) announced today that the [UCare Mobile Dental Clinic](#) returned to service Aug. 29 for UCare members with dental coverage.

UCare, a not-for-profit health plan based in Minneapolis, owns the Mobile Dental Clinic.

The University of Minnesota School of Dentistry handles the clinic's administrative functions and provides all patient care. The mobile clinic is one of 12 community-based clinics in Minnesota, where the University's dental, dental therapy and dental hygiene students treat patients under School of Dentistry faculty supervision.



The clinic's return was made possible by an operating support grant from the Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation and funding from UCare and the School of Dentistry. This combined support enables the UCare Mobile Dental Clinic to operate for one year. Challenge grants from the Schulze Family Foundation and funding from other sources will support UCare's plans to keep the clinic in service through August, 2019.

The UCare Mobile Dental Clinic is a fully equipped, wheelchair accessible and state-of-the-art dental facility. The 43-foot vehicle features three dental chairs, chairside radiography equipment and an electronic dental record system. School of Dentistry faculty-supervised students provide primary dental care check-ups and cleanings (preventive and simple restorative dental services) for to up to 15 people daily. In 2016, it will be available at five Twin Cities' metro area sites and visit four sites in Greater Minnesota ([see schedule](#)).

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“We are very excited to return the UCare Mobile Dental Clinic to service for UCare members needing high-quality dental care in their communities,” said Ghita Worcester, Senior Vice President, Public Affairs and Chief Marketing Officer, UCare. “The clinic is a valuable resource for members experiencing barriers to care and for dental students who can hone their clinical skills while learning where quality dental care is needed in our state.”

“The University of Minnesota School of Dentistry has a strong commitment to community outreach,” said Paul Schulz, DDS, MPH, who directs the dental school’s Division of Outreach and serves as director of the Mobile Dental Clinic. “We are grateful to the Schulze Family Foundation for its generous support that makes it possible for the clinic to continue its tradition of enhancing access to care for UCare members and providing important experiences for our students. Together, we are improving the health of Minnesotans in underserved communities throughout the state.”

The UCare Mobile Dental Clinic will be available to members of all UCare plans with dental coverage: Medicare (*UCare for Seniors* and *EssentiaCare*); *UCare Choices* and *Fairview UCare Choices* plans available on MNsure (members 18 years and younger); *UCare Connect* Special Needs BasicCare (SNBC); UCare’s Minnesota Senior Health Options (MSHO); Minnesota Senior Care Plus; and Prepaid Medical Assistance Plan (PMAP) and MinnesotaCare members in Olmsted County.

The “dentist’s office on wheels” began serving Minnesotans with dental care access issues when the two organizations founded the mobile clinic partnership in 2002.

The clinic returns to Minnesota’s roads after a seven-month hiatus. Eligible UCare members must make appointments for Mobile Dental Clinic care by calling the School of Dentistry at 612-624-5654; 1-866-451-1555 toll free, TTY 711 or 1-800-627-3529 toll free, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

About the [University of Minnesota School of Dentistry](#)

The School of Dentistry advances health through scientific discovery, innovative education and the highest-quality care for all communities. It is the only school in Minnesota accredited to educate dentists, and its graduates include general dentists, dental specialists, dental therapists, dental hygienists, dental educators and research scientists. With nearly 154,000 patient visits each year, the School of Dentistry provides dental services to patients aboard the UCare Mobile Dental Clinic, at 15 other community-based clinics throughout the upper Midwest, and in three clinics located on the Twin Cities campus of the University of Minnesota. Seventy-three percent of the state’s practicing dentists are University of Minnesota School of Dentistry graduates. The School of Dentistry is one of the state’s largest safety-net providers of care to public program patients in Minnesota.

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 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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