An important message from UCare to you, all providers, and the patients you serve

As you may know, the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) announced its intent not to contract with UCare for Prepaid Medical Assistance Program (PMAP) or MinnesotaCare in any Minnesota county beginning January 2016.

UCare will continue to offer the following products in 2016:

- **Minnesota Senior Health Options** (MSHO) – Integrates Medical Assistance and Medicare services and payments for people age 65 and older.
- **Minnesota Senior Care Plus** (MSC+) – For people eligible for Medical Assistance age 65 and older.
- **UCare Connect** (a.k.a Special Needs BasicCare, or SNBC) – For adults with certified disabilities (physical and/or mental illness, certified by state or federal government) ages 18-64 (may remain in SNBC when they turn 65).
- **UCare for Seniors** (UFS) – Medicare Advantage products for people eligible for Medicare.
- **UCare Choices** and **Fairview UCare Choices** – Commercial products for individual and family coverage available through MNsure.

Thank you for communicating accurate information about UCare’s health plan offerings to members and your colleagues now and in the future. We will keep you informed about developments that affect you and our members.

UCare for Seniors Member Information Meetings & “Medicare 101 Sessions” – Fall 2015

With 2016 just around the corner, encourage your patients interested in UCare’s Medicare options to attend one of many Medicare-related informational sessions in their area. In UCare for Seniors Information Meetings, UCare representatives review the benefits for each of our Medicare plan options. “Medicare 101 Sessions” go over the basics so members and potential UCare members can understand their Medicare options and make health care decisions that are right for them.

Schedules for these sessions are listed on online at [https://www.ucare.org/HealthPlans/Medicare/ucareforseniors/Pages/AttendaMeeting.aspx#](https://www.ucare.org/HealthPlans/Medicare/ucareforseniors/Pages/AttendaMeeting.aspx#)

Seating is limited, so attendees are asked to either enroll online or make a reservation by calling 1-877-523-1518 toll free (TTY 1-800-688-2534 toll free).
UCare is preparing for ICD-10! Here’s what you’ll need to know...

ICD-10 is the tenth revision of the International Classification of Diseases. Its implementation is federally mandated to replace ICD-9 on October 1, 2015 for all HIPAA-covered entities. For federal policies and guidelines regarding when and which claims need ICD-9 or ICD-10 codes, please download and read CMS’s MLN Matters 1408 and MLN Matters SE1325.

*HCPCS and CPT codes are not included in the ICD transition.

Authorization Requests

Beginning September 1, 2015, UCare will accept authorization requests with ICD-9 or ICD-10 diagnosis codes. Consult the table below to determine which ICD version needs to be on authorization requests based on date(s) of service.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date(s) of Service</th>
<th>ICD Version Required on Authorization Request</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Before September 1, 2015</td>
<td>ICD-9 only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Between September 1 and September 30, 2015</td>
<td>ICD-9 or ICD-10*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On or after October 1, 2015</td>
<td>ICD-10 only</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The ICD-10 codes should only be used on the prior authorization requests for dates of service spanning 10/1/15 or after 10/1/15.

Testing at UCare

As of September 16, 2015, system testing of all ancillary applications was 100% complete. In addition, testing of Professional and Institutional claims is proving to be successful; there is no significant variance of claim payables when comparing ICD-9 to ICD-10.

Forms on UCare.org

UCare is modifying UCare.org online forms and documents to include ICD-10 verbiage wherever ICD-9 is currently mentioned. Visit UCare.org/providers to view the most up-to-date version of the forms you use.

How Can Providers Prepare?

To find more information on how to prepare for and implement ICD-10, go to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services’ (CMS) official website for ICD-10 here. CMS has many resources available online:

- **Road to 10: The Small Physician Practice's Route to ICD-10**
- **2016 ICD-10-CM Code Sets, Indices, and GEMs**
- **2016 ICD-10-PCS Code Sets, Index, and GEMs**
- And other **Provider Resources**

If you have questions regarding UCare’s implementation of ICD-10, please visit UCare’s website for ICD-10 here for more information, or email icd10@ucare.org.

Flu Season - Annual Vaccine Reminder

One of the easiest and most effective ways of preventing the flu is by getting an annual flu vaccine. Recommendations from healthcare providers can greatly impact a patient’s decision to get vaccinated against seasonal influenza. Help us encourage your patients who are UCare members to protect themselves and their families by getting an annual flu vaccine.

Flu shots and nasal sprays are covered for UCare members. Members can get their flu shot or nasal spray at their doctor’s office, drugstore, pharmacy, food market, or store clinic. Members that use Health Ride transportation service
to get to medical appointments can also use it to get their flu shot or nasal spray.

Every interaction with your patients is an opportunity to offer the flu vaccine. Especially at risk are pregnant women and patients with asthma, diabetes, and chronic conditions. Set an example for your patients by getting the flu vaccine too. Doing so can help keep your patients healthy. Information about flu clinic locations in Minnesota is available online at http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/immunize/vaxfinder.html

Pharmacy Providers: Hydrochlorothiazide 25mg Tablets Recall Information

On Jul. 30, 2015, Unichem Pharmaceuticals recalled one lot (GHYL15028) of hydrochlorothiazide tablets—25mg in 1000-tablet bottles (NDC# 29300-0128-10)—after a customer reported finding a clopidogrel tablet in one bottle. While the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has not yet classed the recall, Unichem has set it at the consumer level, so it is being treated as Class I. More information about the recall is available at: http://www.fda.gov/Safety/Recalls/ucm456877.htm.

Unichem recommends that:

- Product from the recalled lot should not be used.
- Distributors that received recalled hydrochlorothiazide are being contacted by Unichem with return instructions.
- Consumers with recalled tablets should contact their pharmacy.
- For questions about the recall:
  - E-mail regaffairs@unichemusa.com or
  - Call Unichem Customer Service at 1-866-931-0704, Mon. – Fri., 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. ET.
- Adverse events from the use of prescription drugs should be reported to FDA by calling 800.332.1088 or visiting www.fda.gov/medwatch.

A communication summarizing the information provided by the manufacturer has been sent to identified members. A communication summarizing the recall, including patient profiles, has been sent to identified prescribers.

Clinical Practice Guidelines

UCare, through its Quality Improvement Advisory and Credentialing Council (QIACC), adopts and disseminates evidence-based clinical practice guidelines from nationally or locally recognized sources to support good decision making by patients and clinicians, improve health care outcomes, and meet state and federal regulatory requirements. At least every two years, QIACC reviews and approves the content of the guidelines.

UCare recently reviewed and approved the following Institute for Clinical Systems Improvement (ICSI) guidelines:

- **Heart Failure in Adults.** The last ICSI update was July 2013. UCare reviewed and approved in August 2015 with no modifications.
- **Obesity for Adults, Prevention and Management Of.** The last ICSI update was May 2013.UCare reviewed and approved in August 2015 with the following modifications:

  Under the Annotation, “Advise Weight Maintenance and Manage Other Risk Factors,” it is important to monitor BMI for trending at each visit. This assists in guidance and recommendations. To measure member commitment to goals and progress with the management strategy, it may be more appropriate to reassess members after four weeks of implementation versus the 12 weeks recommended by ICSI. Engage family members in education and support.

(continued...)

September 2015
Rationale for Modifications:
Trending of BMI can identify potential issues for members whose BMI is in the normal range but may be trending upward over time. It is important at the beginning of a weight management strategy implementation to assess member commitment. Waiting for 12 weeks to have a reassessment may be too long for some members. Research supports family and the community have a major effect in helping create improvement in obesity treatment.

UCare continues to maintain the following medical clinical practice guidelines:
- Asthma, Diagnosis and Management Of
- Diabetes Mellitus in Adults, Type 2; Diagnosis and Management
- Heart Failure in Adults
- Obesity for Adults, Prevention and Management of
- Prenatal Care
- Preventive Services for Adults
- Preventive Services for Children and Adolescents

UCare continues to maintain the following behavioral health clinical practice guidelines:
- Assessment and Treatment of Children and Adolescents with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder
- Assessment and Treatment of Children and Adolescents with Depressive Disorders
- Treatment of Patients with Major Depressive Disorder
- Treatment of Patients with Schizophrenia
- Treatment of Patients with Substance Use Disorders

UCare posts clinical practice guidelines on our website for providers to access. Find the full UCare guidelines here: [UCare | 24. Clinical Practice Guidelines](#).

UCare also provides a hard copy of the guidelines in new provider orientation packets and notifies providers of updates in our provider bulletin. Guidelines are also provided to providers upon request.

**UCare Payment Policy**

UCare’s Payment Policies are based on available regulatory and coding guidance and, where applicable, community standards. Payment Policies help clarify how UCare will pay for certain healthcare services and are intended to serve only as a general reference resource regarding UCare’s administration of health benefits.

On August 20, 2015 UCare adopted one (1) new Payment Policy:
1. Doulas – for members enrolled in Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP)
   UCare Comments/Modifications of Policy:
   - UCare follows all MHCP guidelines regarding payment for doula services.
   - Doulas registered with the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) are eligible to provide services effective July 1, 2014 when they are certified by one of the following organizations:
     - Association of Labor Assistants and Childbirth Educators (ALACE)
     - Birthworks
     - Childbirth International
     - Childbirth and Postpartum Professional Association (CAPPA)
     - Commonsense Childbirth, Inc.
     - Doulas of North America (DONA)
     - International Center for Traditional Childbearing (CTC)
     - International Childbirth Education Association (CEA)