



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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UCare hires Michael J. Ruiz as Vice President of Provider Relations and Contracting

MINNEAPOLIS, Feb. 15, 2016 – [UCare](#) has hired Michael J. Ruiz as the not-for-profit health plan’s new Vice President of Provider Relations and Contracting.

Ruiz is a health care executive with more than 15 years of experience in clinic and project management, provider contract oversight, accountable care organization strategy and Medicare market performance experience. He has worked with and managed a broad range of provider recruitment, sales, contracting, data sharing, medical cost performance functions and the Medicare Star Ratings system as it relates to relationships with health plan providers.

As UCare’s Vice President of Provider Relations and Contracting, Ruiz leads complex negotiations with providers and develops innovative Medicare and commercial value-based contracting arrangements. He also manages teams and processes to support improved operations and performance at UCare.

Ruiz reports to Mark Traynor, UCare’s Senior Vice President of Provider Relations and Chief Legal Officer.

“We welcome Mike’s excellent experience and talents to UCare,” said Traynor. “Mike will serve the interests of our UCare members in all he does, while building strong relationships with our provider partners who deliver high-quality health care to our members across Minnesota every day.”

Ruiz was most recently Vice President, Medicare Market Performance at UnitedHealthcare in Minnetonka, Minn. His responsibilities included overseeing value-based contracting analysis for incentive programs, addressing gaps in Medicare Star Ratings and improving medical cost performance for health plan members.

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He previously held positions as Senior Director, Accountable Care Strategy at UnitedHealthcare; Senior Provider Contract Manager with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota in Eagan, Minn.; Project Manager with Medical Management, Inc., of Portland, Ore.; and Hospital Director with Banfield Pet Hospitals in the Twin Cities area.

Ruiz earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Minnesota. He is a member of the Health Care Financial Management Association.

Ruiz and his family live in St. Paul, Minn., where he coaches the Highland Hoops Basketball League and Hi-Mac Baseball League, and is president of the Friends of the Oxford Pool.

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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