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UCare Unveils NEW 2019 Medicare Options

Plan information available at over 500 Medicare Meetups across Minnesota and western Wisconsin

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. – October 1, 2018 – UCare, a nonprofit health plan and the longest-serving Medicare Advantage plan in Minnesota, today unveiled its 2019 Medicare plan options, including a new point-of-service benefit, partner plans and comparable alternatives to Cost Plans, which will close at the end of the year and impact more than 300,000 Minnesotans.

A full list of UCare’s Medicare plan options for 2019 can be found at <https://home.ucare.org/en-us/health-plans/medicare/ucare-medicare-plans/>. Highlights include:

- **UCare Anywhere^(SM)** allows plan members to travel to any location within the United States for care and pay only in-network copay on routine care, including clinic and specialist visits, physical therapy and counseling services.
- **New plan types:** Total and Complete plans offer a range of options to meet the needs of Minnesotans satisfied by Cost Plans, designed to enable people to step up or down to other plans based on future health needs.
- **New partner plans:** UCare will offer Medicare plans with partners Fairview and North Memorial Health.
- **Same reliable plans:** With high member satisfaction, UCare offers many of the same great plans with access to 96% of Minnesota providers; in addition, its EssentiaCare partner plan will expand to three Wisconsin counties in 2019.
- **Stable costs:** From a \$0 premium plan to more comprehensive coverage plans, there are choices for different budgets and health needs.
- **Preferred pharmacy expansion:** 200 new pharmacy chains added for increased prescription savings include Walmart, Hyvee, Lunds/Byerlys, Allina Pharmacies and Park Nicollet

Serving Minnesotans for more than 30 years, UCare offers a variety of Medicare, Medicaid and Individual and Family health plan options for people of all ages and stages, with any budget and in any health condition. Thanks to UCare’s focus on remaining a local insurer in Minnesota, its plans reach people in 87 counties and include 96% of providers in network, including Mayo Clinic for most plans. More than 80,000 people are members of a UCare Medicare Advantage plan, making it the largest plan of this type in the state.

UCare is [ranked in the top 25 Medicare plans](#) for 2018-2019 by the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA), a non-profit organization that accredits and certifies a wide range of healthcare organizations. UCare also receives 4.5 out of 5 in Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) STAR rating, which rates health plans’ quality and performance across a number of key metrics.

2019 plan information is available October 1 for Medicare enrollees to start their research. They can begin enrolling or switching to new plans on October 15. Any changes made to coverage October 15 – December 7 will go into effect on January 1, 2019.

“Our team has years of experience helping people understand Medicare and choose plans that best fit their needs,” said Mark Traynor, President and CEO of UCare. “With new changes impacting so many Minnesotans this year, we’re encouraging eligible individuals to shop and compare – research online, attend a meeting or call a Medicare Specialist,” added Traynor. “As part of our mission at UCare to provide People Powered Health Plans, our team is ready to help you understand your options and what to look for in a Medicare plan.”

UCare makes it easy to order information kits and shop online. In an effort to further educate Minnesotans, the health plan is holding over 500 Medicare Meetups throughout the state to help individuals through the enrollment process, with personalized Medicare recommendations, enrollment questions and instructions. People interested in attending a Meetup can locate the event nearest them by visiting www.ucare.org/saveyourseat.

To learn more about UCare and its health plan options beyond Medicare, please visit www.ucare.org.

About UCare

[UCare](http://www.ucare.org) is an independent, nonprofit health plan providing health care and administrative services to more than 400,000 members throughout Minnesota. UCare partners with health care providers, counties, and community organizations to create and deliver:

- [Medicare plans](#) with an “Excellent” NCQA rating, and [partnerships with Fairview and North Memorial Health in the metro and](#) with Essentia Health in northern Minnesota and western Wisconsin.
- [Individual and Family Plans](#) available on [MNsure](#)
- [Coverage for adults with disabilities](#), [MinnesotaCare](#) and [Prepaid Medical Assistance](#) programs
- Programs for [older Minnesotans with Medical Assistance](#), or with both [Medical Assistance and Medicare](#).

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 nine consecutive years since the rankings began in 2010.

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