



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **UCare 2022 Medicare plans earn 5-Star Rating from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)**

***Highest possible rating places UCare in the top 16% of Medicare plans nationally***

MINNEAPOLIS, Oct. 18, 2021 — Just in time for the Medicare Annual Election Period starting Oct. 15, [UCare](#) is pleased to announce its 5-Star Rating from [CMS for its 2022 Medicare plans](#). Nonprofit, community-based UCare places the highest value on the quality of care and services for its Medicare members, which is reflected by its 2022 5 out of 5 Stars CMS Rating for [UCare Medicare plans](#), and 4 and above Star Ratings on dual and special needs Medicare plans. UCare is proud to be in the company of other high-performing nonprofits. [The CMS 2022 Star Rating Fact Sheet](#) reports that “organizations that are nonprofit more frequently earn higher ratings than organizations that are for-profit.”

These ratings help Medicare shoppers compare plans based on quality and performance. Medicare uses robust and diverse performance data, including information from member satisfaction surveys, to give overall performance star ratings to plans. A plan can get a rating between 1 and 5 Stars, with a [5-Star rating considered excellent](#). UCare’s extraordinary scoring on member experience and satisfaction helped drive its 5-Star rating.

“We are proud to be among the best Medicare plans in the nation,” said UCare President and CEO Mark Traynor. “Throughout the year, we work diligently with our large network of quality providers – as well as members and community partners – to improve our members’ experience, accessibility and quality of care. Our efforts are validated by our 5-Star Rating.”

UCare’s other Medicare plans earned impressive ratings. [UCare’s Minnesota Senior Health Options \(MSHO\)](#) – a dual plan for Minnesotans eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid – earned a rating of 4.5 Stars. UCare’s dual plan for people with disabilities, [UCare Connect + Medicare](#), and its partner plan with Essentia Health in northern Minnesota, [EssentiaCare](#), each earned 4 Stars. CMS considers plans rated 4 Stars or higher to be highly rated plans and rewards those plans with bonus payments used to offer additional benefits to members.

Medicare members have a one-time opportunity to switch to a 5-Star Medicare plan during the 5-Star Special Enrollment Period (December 8 – November 30).

In addition, UCare's Medicare plans earned a 4.5 out of 5 Star NCQA Accreditation Rating in [NCQA's Health Plan Ratings 2021: Medicare](#). Similar to CMS Medicare Stars, the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) evaluates health plans on the quality of care patients receive, how happy patients are with their care and health plans' efforts to keep improving.



The National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) is a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to improving health care quality. NCQA accredits and certifies a wide range of health care organizations and recognizes clinics in key clinical areas. NCQA's HEDIS® is the most widely used performance measurement tool in health care. NCQA's website ([www.ncqa.org](http://www.ncqa.org)) contains information to help consumers, employers and others make informed health care choices.

### **About UCare**

[UCare](#) is an independent, nonprofit health plan providing health care and administrative services to more than 570,000 members throughout Minnesota and parts of western Wisconsin. UCare partners with health care providers, counties, and community organizations to create and deliver Medicare, Medicaid and Individual & Family health plans. All of its plans are National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) accredited.

The health plan addresses health care disparities and care access issues through a broad array of community initiatives. UCare has received Top Workplaces honors from the Star Tribune for 12 consecutive years since the rankings began in 2010.

Every year, Medicare evaluates plans based on a 5-star rating system.

UCare Minnesota and UCare Health are an HMO-POS plan with a Medicare contract. Enrollment in UCare Minnesota and UCare Health depends on contract renewal. UCare's MSHO (HMO D-SNP) and UCare's Connect + Medicare (HMO D-SNP) are health plans that contract with both Medicare and the Minnesota Medical Assistance (Medicaid) program to provide benefits of both programs to enrollees. Enrollment in UCare's MSHO and UCare's Connect + Medicare depends on contract renewal.

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