



November 15, 2017

Dear UCare Provider,

UCare's 2018 authorization and notification requirements are now available on our website at [ucare.org/providers](http://ucare.org/providers), under the Authorization & Eligibility section. We are pleased to publish several reference documents for UCare plans. The following authorization and notification reference documents are available: State and Federal programs medical services, *UCare Choices* and *Fairview UCare Choices* (Commercial) medical services, *EssentiaCare*, behavioral health and pharmacy.

UCare continues to have a strong commitment to you; our provider community. Partnering with our valued providers more effectively and innovatively is a key strategic element to our future growth and success.

As a reminder, UCare's 2018 product offerings include: *EssentiaCare*, MinnesotaCare, Minnesota Senior Care Plus (MSC +), Minnesota Senior Health Options (MSHO), Prepaid Medical Assistance Program (PMAP), *UCare Connect*, *UCare Connect + Medicare*, *UCare for Seniors* (UFS), *UCare Choices* and *Fairview UCare Choices*.

Please make sure this information reaches the people who handle authorizations and notifications in your organization.

### 2018 changes at a glance

The following formatting changes have been made:

- The Contact for Approval or Notification column has been thoroughly updated. Please ensure you double check this column for efficient and effective processing.

The following changes were made to the authorization and notification requirements for UCare's State and Federal Programs (UFS, MSHO, PMAP, MnCare, MSC+, *UCare Connect*, *UCare Connect + Medicare*, *EssentiaCare*):

#### **MODIFIED requirements:**

- Home Health Aids & Skilled Nurse Visits – Prior authorization **required beyond threshold of 15 visits** per calendar year.

#### **ADDED requirements:**

- Acupuncture – Authorization **required beyond threshold of 20 visits** per calendar year. This is not a Medicare covered benefit.
- Vagus Nerve Stimulation – **Obtain authorization prior** to service.
- Vein Procedures – **Obtain authorization prior** to service.

**REMOVED requirements:**

- Deep Brain Stimulation – Prior Authorization no longer required.
- Hysterectomy – Prior Authorization no longer required.

**Behavioral Health Changes** – UCare has modified and removed several prior authorization requirements so please familiarize your organization where applicable. Please refer to the 2018 documents for the latest updates.

Thanks for working with us on authorizations and notifications as we aim to reduce your time and effort in supporting our members' health and well-being. If you have questions, our Provider Assistance Center can help: **612-676-3300** or **1-888-531-1493**, Monday – Friday, 7 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Sincerely,



Larry Lee, MD, FACP

Senior Vice President & Chief Medical Officer