

health lines

Monthly Provider Newsletter



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July 2017

Enhanced prior authorization forms for Elderly Waiver (EW), genetic testing & Personal Care Assistant (PCA) providers introduced July 10

As communicated in the June edition of *health lines*, effective July 10, 2017, UCare launched enhanced prior authorization forms for [EW services](#), [genetic testing](#) and [PCA services](#). The form enhancements will ensure that all of UCare's prior authorization forms have a similar look and feel, provide clear instructions for what is needed to efficiently process requests and reduce the amount of administrative time for the provider community.

The EW and PCA forms have been reorganized and updated based on provider and UCare staff feedback. The Genetic Testing Prior Authorization Form is a brand new, service-specific form designed to capture the unique data elements UCare needs to complete the prior authorization review for this set of services.

[UCare's provider website](#) now has the links to the updated forms. If you submit prior authorization requests to UCare for EW services, genetic testing or PCA services, please ensure staff members are using the latest versions of the forms to avoid confusion. Thank you!

New implementation date for Medicare pricing software for Minnesota Seniors Health Options (MSHO) and UCare Connect + Medicare

The [Provider Bulletin dated April 26, 2017](#), included updates regarding UCare's implementation of third-party software used to calculate pricing for Medicare professional services. This software was successfully implemented for *UCare for Seniors* and *EssentiaCare* on March 1, 2017. However, the implementation date for MSHO and *UCare Connect + Medicare* has been delayed until Aug. 1, 2017.

MSHO and *UCare Connect + Medicare* claims for most Medicare-covered professional services received by UCare on or after **Aug. 1, 2017**, with dates of service on or after Aug. 1, 2017, will be priced using the pricing software.

CMS Ruling on continuous glucose monitors

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) recently issued a Ruling concluding that certain continuous glucose monitors (CGM), referred to as therapeutic CGMs, are now covered under Medicare. As a reminder, as a Medicare

Advantage Organization, UCare is required to cover the same items and services that original Medicare covers. Any of your patients who are *UCare for Seniors*, *EssentiaCare*, Minnesota Senior Health Options (MSHO) or *UCare Connect + Medicare* members have coverage for CGMs under the same criteria and conditions as original Medicare requires or allows. Please refer to the [MLN Matters](#) article MM10013 for details.

For MSHO and *UCare Connect + Medicare*: Members not meeting Medicare criteria but who meet Medicaid criteria are covered under the Medicaid benefit, and services should be submitted accordingly.

Documentation improvement: Arrhythmias

Arrhythmia is an irregular heart rhythm, meaning the heart is beating too fast, too slow or erratically. Tachycardia is a fast heart rate and bradycardia is a slow heart rate. In order to properly document a patient's arrhythmia, the following information should be included.¹

- **Location** – Atrial, ventricular, supraventricular, etc.
- **Rhythm type** – Flutter, fibrillation, long QT syndrome, sick sinus syndrome, etc.
- **Acuity** – Acute, chronic, paroxysmal, etc.
- **Cause** – Hypertension, hyperkalemia, alcohol consumption, digoxin, etc.
- **Additional information** – Treatment status, pacemaker status, adverse effect of a drug, etc.

Documentation that includes the above will produce complete and accurate coding and diagnostic reporting. The medical record will accurately reflect the patient's condition and current treatment, as well as assist others in improving the patient's overall health status.

¹ Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services: ICD-10 Clinical Concepts for Cardiology

Save the date: Cervical cancer screening webinar is July 26

UCare and the American Cancer Society are hosting a webinar on cervical cancer screening on Wednesday, July 26, from 12:15 – 1:00 p.m. Dr. Lisa Mattson, Associate Medical Director at UCare, will give an overview of cervical cancer trends in Minnesota and the U.S., review recent changes to the clinical guidelines and lead a discussion of potential strategies for addressing gaps. [See the flyer](#) for more information.

Physicians, nurses, medical assistants, quality improvement staff members and community partners are invited to attend. R.S.V.P. to Matt Flory at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LHPT7JK>. Please direct any questions to Matt at matt.flory@cancer.org or 651-255-8190.

MIPS estimator available to assist providers

A new tool is available to assist providers with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) [Quality Payment Program](#) (QPP). Stratis Health is offering a free estimator to determine which measures and data submission methods give providers the highest baseline Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) composite score.

Stratis Health is currently developing the MIPS Estimator as an online application that will aggregate a group's data once individual data is entered. Release is planned for August. In the meantime, providers may [download the MIPS Estimator Prerelease](#) Excel spreadsheet to begin collecting this data.

For assistance with QPP or the Stratis Health MIPS Estimator, email the [QPP Help Desk](#).

Note: This information is provided for awareness purposes only and is not connected to how UCare reimburses providers for services or quality care.

The importance of high blood pressure and cholesterol education

According to the American Heart Association, each year about 750,000 Americans experience a heart attack and nearly 800,000 have a stroke. In fact, heart disease is the leading cause of death in the United States. Hypertension and hypercholesterolemia are two factors that contribute to heart attack and stroke. Both conditions are undertreated, underdiagnosed and, oftentimes, asymptomatic.

You can help members lower their risk of heart attack or stroke by educating them on the importance of knowing their blood pressure and cholesterol levels. Discussing and checking blood pressure and cholesterol provides a snapshot of the member's current state of health. When problems are detected early, simple lifestyle modifications, such as eating healthy and exercising, can lower both blood pressure and cholesterol. Through regular monitoring, both of these conditions can be managed with positive outcomes.

Keep important news coming to your inbox

Many workplaces set email security to screen out certain messages that could be spam. Often, emails that you signed up to receive end up in your spam or junk email folders.

By adding the sender's email address to your safe senders or contact list, you can help ensure you receive these messages. Each email program has different ways to do this, so check with your IT department or email provider for instruction. To make sure you keep receiving *health lines* and other provider communications from UCare, please add providernews@ucare.org to your safe senders list.

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