

Health Lines



March 2023

UCare Achieves NCQA Health Equity Accreditation for Medicaid Products

The [National Committee for Quality Assurance \(NCQA\)](#)[®] awarded UCare’s Medicaid product line a [Health Equity Accreditation](#). Health Equity Accreditation recognizes organizations that lead the market in providing culturally and linguistically sensitive services, and work to reduce health care disparities.

The review focuses on the foundation of health equity work:

- building an internal culture that supports the organization’s external health equity work
- collecting data that help the organization create and offer language services and provider networks mindful of individuals’ cultural and linguistic needs
- identifying opportunities to reduce health inequities and improve care

NCQA awards Accreditation to organizations that meet or exceed its requirements for health equity. During the Accreditation process, UCare was evaluated on how well it complies with standards in:

- organizational readiness
- race/ethnicity, language, gender identity and sexual orientation
- access and availability of language services
- practitioner network cultural responsiveness
- culturally and linguistically appropriate services programs
- reducing health care disparities

UCare partners with health care providers and community organizations to deliver the highest quality of care and support for members and the community. UCare has maintained NCQA Health Plan Accreditation since 2014 and all UCare products are Accredited.

About NCQA

[NCQA](#) is a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to improving health care quality. NCQA accredits and certifies a wide range of health care organizations. It also recognizes clinicians and practices

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UCare Provider Website
www.ucare.org/providers

Provider Assistance Center
612-676-3300
1-888-531-1493 toll free

in key areas of performance. NCQA’s Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS®) is the most widely used performance measurement tool in health care. NCQA’s website (www.ncqa.org/) contains information to help consumers, employers and others make more-informed health care choices. You can also find NCQA on Twitter [@ncqa](https://twitter.com/ncqa), Facebook at www.facebook.com/NCQA.org/ and LinkedIn at www.linkedin.com/company/ncqa.

Provider Portal Access

In late 2022, UCare launched its new Provider Portal. We encourage Admins and Users to use the new Provider Portal. However, UCare has also kept its previous version of the Provider Portal open in the short-term. Anyone who had rights to the previous Provider Portal still has access to use it at this time.

To access either Provider Portal, please visit <https://www.ucare.org/providers/provider-portal/portal-landing-page>.

When to Prescribe a Biosimilar

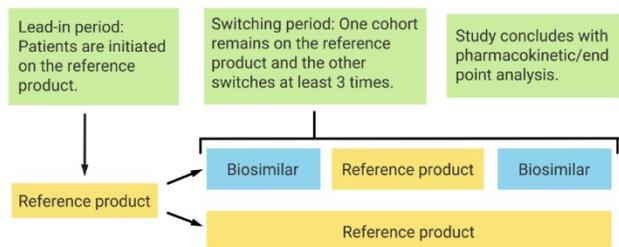
Within the next year, several high impact biosimilars will be available (Humira, Stelara, Actemra and Cimzia). A new prescription may be required for patients to see a cost savings in switching to these products.

Biosimilars are as safe and effective as the reference product they were compared to. Helping transition patients to biosimilars may directly reduce a patient’s out of pocket expense, as many reference products are subject to a coinsurance.

A biosimilar has no meaningful clinical difference from an existing FDA-approved biologic, also known as a reference product. Biosimilars are administered the same, made with the same types of living sources, have the same strength, dosage, treatment benefits and potential side effects as the reference product.

Interchangeable biosimilars also undergo further switching studies. This ensures the risk (related to safety or diminished efficacy) of alternating or switching between use of the biological product and the reference product, is equal to or less than the risk of using the reference product without alternation or switch.

Figure. FDA-Recommended Switching Study Design



Under the FDA design, patients in the switching cohort would be exposed twice to the biosimilar and twice to the reference product.

In Minnesota, a reference product can be substituted with an interchangeable biosimilar by a pharmacist, like a generic equivalent for a brand. However, patients and health care providers do not need to wait for a biosimilar product to become an interchangeable product. If a biosimilar is not interchangeable, then a new prescription is required. By providing a new prescription, patients can start using lower-cost, equally safe and effective biosimilars right away.

For more information visit the [FDA Overview of Biosimilar Products](#) and [HHS Considerations in Demonstrating Interchangeability with a Reference Product](#) pages.

(2021). Figure. FDA-Recommended Switching Study Design. <https://www.centerforbiosimilars.com/view/investigators-test-reliability-of-interchangeability-switching-studies>.

Keeping UCare Members Active and Healthy

One Pass

Eligible members include: UCare Medicare Plans (excluding UCare Advocate Choice and UCare Advocate Plus), UCare Your Choice, UCare Your Choice Plus, UCare Medicare Supplement, UCare Medicare with M Health Fairview & North Memorial Health, EssentiaCare, UCare's Minnesota Senior Health Options, UCare Connect + Medicare and UCare Connect.

One Pass is a complete fitness solution for body and mind, available at no additional cost for eligible members. One Pass offers:

- Access to more than 23,000 participating fitness locations nationwide
- More than 30,000 on-demand and live-streaming fitness classes
- Workout builders to create personalized workouts
- Home Fitness Kits for members who are physically unable to visit, or who reside at least 15 miles outside, a participating fitness location
- Personalized, online brain training program to help improve memory, attention and focus
- Over 30,000 social activities, community classes and events available for online or in-person participation

Members can find participating fitness locations and learn more at ucare.org/onepass.

Health Club Savings

Eligible members include: MinnesotaCare, Prepaid Medical Assistance Program, UCare Individual & Family Plans, UCare Individual & Family Plans with M Health Fairview, UCare Medicare Plans (excluding UCare Advocate Choice, UCare Advocate Plus), UCare Medicare Supplement plans, UCare Your Choice, UCare Your Choice Plus, UCare Medicare with M Health Fairview & North Memorial Health and EssentiaCare.

Eligible UCare members who belong to a participating health club can receive a reimbursement for their monthly health club membership fees. To participate, members show their UCare ID card when they sign up at a participating location.

Online fitness classes at participating Health Club Savings locations may count toward member's monthly visit requirement. Classes must meet [certain guidelines](#).

For UCare Medicare Plans (excluding UCare Advocate Choice, UCare Advocate Plus), UCare Medicare Supplement plans, UCare Your Choice, UCare Your Choice Plus, UCare Medicare with M Health Fairview & North Memorial Health and EssentiaCare.

- Members can earn up to \$30 a month toward health club membership fees if they do not participate in One Pass and their club is not in the One Pass network
- Members don't have a monthly visit requirement
- Participating health clubs include:
 - Select [Healthy Contributions](#) clubs
 - Select [National Independent Health Club Association \(NIHCA\)](#) clubs

For MinnesotaCare, Prepaid Medical Assistance Program, UCare Individual & Family Plans, UCare Individual & Family Plans with M Health Fairview.

- Members can earn up to \$20 a month toward their health club membership fees
- Members have a monthly visit requirement of 12 visits

- Members must be age 18 or older
- Participating health clubs include:
 - [Life Time Fitness](#)
 - [YMCA Twin Cities](#)
 - [SNAP Fitness](#)
 - [Healthy Contributions](#) clubs
 - [National Independent Health Club Association \(NIHCA\)](#) clubs

Visit the [Health Club Savings page](#) for more information.

Fraud, Waste and Abuse Reporting Reminder

UCare takes a proactive approach toward stopping [fraud, waste and abuse](#) (FWA). Health care resources are limited, we ensure they are devoted to meeting genuine health needs. Providers should call 1-877-826-6847 for an anonymous reporting option or email compliance@ucare.org to report any suspected FWA against UCare or UCare members.

ONLINE

www.ucare.org/providers

Call

612-676-3300,
1-888-531-1493

EMAIL

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MAIL

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