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## **UCare's Pleasant Radford, Jr. named a Top 14 Industry Emerging Leader**

***Radford, Jr. receives national Emerging Leader recognition from  
Managed Healthcare Executive® magazine***

MINNEAPOLIS, August 21, 2024 — [UCare](#)'s Pleasant Radford, Jr., Health Equity Officer, was selected by [Managed Healthcare Executive](#) magazine as one of 14 nationally recognized emerging leaders in managed care. The magazine selected Radford, Jr. on the merits of his dynamic leadership in key health equity initiatives and actions that support the health of UCare members.



The 2024 Emerging Leaders in Healthcare feature in [Managed Healthcare Executive's August issue](#) spotlight 14 exceptional individuals making strides in their careers. This year, the editors refined the criteria to emphasize the “emerging” aspect of the award title, focusing on leaders earlier in their professional journeys. They note that “watching their career trajectories in the years ahead will be an exciting endeavor. In a healthcare landscape filled with challenges, these young professionals inspire confidence that the future of U.S. health care is in capable hands.”

A Q&A and video interview with Radford, Jr. are featured on [Managed Healthcare's website](#). Radford, Jr. describes influences in his life that drove him to be a results-driven, humble and committed leader passionate about partnering with local communities to co-create, implement and sustain equity-centered solutions. He discusses his top priorities at UCare – to rebuild trust in health care through community engagement and build the data architecture to collect, store and retrieve sexual orientation and gender identity data. In addition to his role at UCare, he hosts the “Heart of Equity” podcast, where he interviews Black healthcare professionals across the Midwest region and nationally to talk about health equity work for Black Americans.

UCare Vice President of Health Services Quality and Operations, Greg Hanley, describes Radford, Jr. as “a force for health equity. Pleasant is deeply committed to improving the health of our members who face disparities, barriers to care and historical trauma. He has a strong vision of how to produce positive outcomes for members, and has fostered key partnerships with community organizations that impact social drivers of health for underserved populations.”

#### **About UCare**

[UCare](#) is an independent, nonprofit health plan providing health care and administrative services to 600,000 members throughout Minnesota and parts of western Wisconsin. UCare partners with health care providers, counties and community organizations to create and deliver Medicaid, Medicare and Individual & Family plans.

The health plan addresses health care disparities and care access issues through a broad array of community initiatives. UCare is the highest ranked Top Workplaces 2024 USA health plan, and has been a local Star Tribune Top Workplace for 15 consecutive years since the rankings began in 2010.

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