



# Health Lines

January 2026

## UCare Rehabilitation website introduced

On Dec. 17, 2025, UCare Minnesota was placed into Rehabilitation by order of the District Court, Second Judicial District, County of Ramsey. UCare Minnesota will continue under state regulatory supervision (Rehabilitation) to wind down its operations.

A website has been created for the Rehabilitation at <https://ucare-inreceivership.com/>. It addresses claims for dates of service on or before Dec. 31, 2025, that are subject to the Rehabilitation. The website will be updated regularly and will:

- Address frequently asked questions.
- Provide access to documents publicly available during the Rehabilitation.
- Announce any material occurrence or changes to the status of the Rehabilitation or to guidance provided by the Rehabilitator.

Providers are encouraged to bookmark this page and visit it regularly for the latest information.

## Product changes for 2026

Several changes have been shared regarding UCare's product offerings in 2026. Providers may reference the following websites for more information:

- [UCare Product and Benefit Tip Sheets](#)
- [Provider FAQs: Medica and UCare announce an agreement](#)
- [Medica to help UCare members transition after D-SNP plans discontinued](#)
- [Provider FAQs: UCare Product Changes](#)

## Authorization grids released

The 2026 authorization and notification grids are available on the [UCare Authorizations page](#).

## Coverage policies

### New coverage policies added

UCare posted the following new coverage policy for Individual and Family Plans (IFP), effective Jan. 1, 2026:

- Oxygen and Oxygen Equipment Policy - (Medicaid) (CP-MCD25-044A)

### Revised coverage policies

UCare posted the following revised coverage policies for IFP, effective January 1, 2026:

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## UCare provider website

[www.ucare.org/providers](http://www.ucare.org/providers)

## Provider Assistance Center

612-676-3300  
1-888-531-1493 toll-free

- Durable Medical Equipment (DME) - (IFP) (CP-IFP21-006A)
- Skin-Substitute Grafts - (IFP) (CP-IFP25-044A)

UCare Coverage Policies provide clarification and specificity to the benefit sections of the UCare product contract. The specific contract is noted on each new or updated coverage policy. Visit [UCare's Coverage Policies page](#) for more information.

#### **Annual review of 2026 coverage policies**

UCare Coverage Policies are reviewed annually to ensure they are consistent with current contract language, prior authorization processes, coding and are updated as needed. The table on the [Coverage Policies page](#) lists all the coverage policies for IFP, Medicare and Medicaid. The policies have been reviewed and approved by the committee responsible for overseeing the coverage policy process. Any changes or updates made can be found in the "Annual Review/Changes" column of the table.

- [Coverage Policy Annual Review Document](#)

## **Documentation improvement: Cervical cancer**

In recognition of [Cervical Cancer Awareness Month](#), UCare focuses on proper documentation and [coding of cervical cancer](#). The primary step in completing documentation and coding is determining whether the cancer is current or historical. The [National Cancer Institute](#) reports nearly 13,000 individuals are living with [cervical cancer](#). National experts believe the disease can be prevented through vaccination and early detection.

When documenting an active cancer, it should include the following:

- **Anatomical site:** document the location of the cancer (e.g., breast, colon, prostate, etc.).
- **Behavior or cell type:** note whether the cancer is primary or secondary malignant, in situ, benign, of uncertain behavior, or of unspecified nature or behavior.
- **Metastatic sites:** be sure to include any secondary (metastatic) sites in the medical record.
- **Related conditions:** conditions related to or caused by the cancer are often discussed and treated, but not documented (e.g., protein-calorie malnutrition, diabetes mellitus secondary to cancer, anemia due to cancer, etc.).
- **Treatment:** active treatment includes chemotherapy, radiation therapy, adjunct therapy or surgical treatment.
- **Complications:** cancer and its treatment can cause several complications, such as weight loss, nausea and fatigue.

Providers should not document "history of neoplasm" or "no evidence of disease" (NED) if the neoplasm is still being actively treated, even if it has been excised. Instead, document the continuum of care, noting what has been done and what is left to do.

- Active treatment would result in an active neoplasm code.
- Prophylaxis would result in a history of cancer code.

According to the [ICD-10-CM coding guidelines](#), "When a primary malignancy has been previously excised or eradicated from its site and there is no further treatment (of the malignancy) directed to that site and there is no evidence of any existing primary malignancy at that site, a code from category Z85, personal history of malignant neoplasm, should be used to indicate the former site of the malignancy."

- Active malignant neoplasms of the cervix are under the ICD-10-CM code category C53
- C53.0-Malignant neoplasm of endocervix
- C53.1-Malignant neoplasm of exocervix
- C53.8-Malignant neoplasm of overlapping sites of cervix uteri
- C53.9-Malignant neoplasm of the cervix uteri, unspecified

**Detailed and specific documentation is key to ensuring the correct diagnosis is assigned.**

## 2026 UCare provider training series

UCare will continue to offer monthly virtual training opportunities for participating providers. These trainings will give providers a better understanding of the following:

- UCare programs available for members
- UCare enrollment processes and requirements
- UCare provider portal and clearinghouse requirements
- Authorization and notification information
- General UCare claim processing overview and tips
- How to notify UCare of administrative changes
- How to access resources and assistance within UCare

Providers can register for the live WebEx trainings on UCare's [Training and Education](#) webpage.

## 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](mailto:compliance@ucare.org) to report any suspected FWA against UCare or UCare members.

## Upcoming holiday

UCare and the Provider Assistance Center (PAC) will be closed Monday, Jan. 19, 2026, for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

If you need assistance during this time, self-service will be available through the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system or by logging into the Provider Portal to verify eligibility, check claim status or send a message to PAC.