

Provider Bulletin

News and Information



Oct. 1, 2025

UCare announces 2026 service area updates for UCare Connect + Medicare

UCare has made the difficult but necessary decision to adjust the service area of UCare Connect + Medicare (integrated, Special Needs BasicCare) beginning Jan. 1, 2026. This decision was part of a strategic roadmap established earlier in 2025 to ensure financial stability and mission continuity.

What this means for 2025

- **There are no immediate changes in 2025:** Members enrolled in UCare Connect + Medicare can continue to use their UCare ID cards, providers and benefits as usual through Dec. 31, 2025.
- **Provider network remains unchanged:** Providers should continue to serve impacted UCare members in 2025 as they do today.
- **Continued UCare offerings:** UCare remains committed to serving members of its Prepaid Medical Assistance Program (PMAP), MinnesotaCare, UCare Connect (non-integrated SNBC), Minnesota Senior Care Plus (MSC+), UCare's Minnesota Senior Health Options (MSHO), UCare Individual & Family Plans, UCare Individual and Family Plans with M Health Fairview and Medicare Supplement Plans in 2025.

Looking ahead to 2026

- **Remaining service area:** UCare Connect + Medicare will be available in **14 counties** - Anoka, Benton, Carver, Chisago, Dakota, Hennepin, Isanti, Mille Lacs, Ramsey, Scott, Sherburne, Stearns, Washington and Wright.
- **Service area reduction:** UCare will exit **all other remaining counties not listed above**, effective Jan. 1, 2026.
- **Member options:** Members may be able to switch to another Special Needs BasicCare (SNBC) option if one is offered and open for enrollment. If a member does nothing by mid-December, the member will be moved to fee-for-service (FFS) coverage in January. If a member qualifies for SNBC but didn't choose a plan, in early 2026, the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) will send the member a letter explaining SNBC benefits, the plans available in their county and how to enroll. UCare will work closely with DHS, counties and providers to make sure impacted members get clear information, help during the transition and continuity of care.
- **Enrollment freeze:** As previously announced, enrollment freezes remain in effect for 2026 for UCare Connect (non-integrated SNBC). Members cannot re-enroll unless they meet an exception or UCare is the only option for Connect in their county. DHS will share updated choices for all programs when 2026 contracts are finalized.
- **Member notification:** As required by DHS and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), members will receive official communications beginning October 2025, with clear guidance on coverage and next steps.
- **Continuity of care:** UCare will work closely with providers, counties, regulators and partners to support a smooth transition for members.

Support for providers

UCare remains fully committed to supporting our provider partners and ensuring members receive support during this transition.

A [frequently asked questions](#) (FAQ) page is available to assist providers. UCare will continue to add common questions and update the information as needed.

The following additional information and resources are available to assist providers and enrollees who are impacted by the changes:

- Member information:
 - Health Care Consumer Support line - 651-431-3722 or 1-833-970-0047, or contact their county of residence
- Provider information:
 - [Frequently Asked Questions about the changes](#)
 - MN-ITS for the latest enrollment data
 - [MHCP provider news and updates](#) / [MHCP provider news and updates archive](#)
 - [Managed Care Organizations \(MCO\) contacts for MHCP providers](#)
 - MHCP Provider Resource Center - 651-431-2700 or 1-800-366-5411