

Provider Bulletin

News and Information



October 15, 2025

Pharmacy formulary and benefit changes for 2026

The 2026 UCare formularies and other pharmacy-related documents are now available on ucare.org. The formularies are subject to change throughout the year and are updated on the first of each month.

UCare plan changes

UCare Medicare Plans, UCare Medicare Group Plans and EssentiaCare will close for 2026. UCare will continue to offer UCare's Minnesota Senior Health Options (MSHO), UCare Connect + Medicare plans and UCare Individual and Family plans.

Member formulary change communications

This month, UCare is contacting members in all plans by mail if they are affected by 2026 formulary changes. The letters list the drug impacted, the type of change and any formulary alternative(s).

Authorization requests

- Formulary exception, prior authorization and tier exception requests for 2026 can be submitted on or after Jan. 1, 2026.
- Prior authorizations that have an expiration date past Dec. 31, 2025, will continue to be valid into 2026 if the member stays in a plan with the same formulary.
- Medical drug authorization requests will continue to be reviewed by Care Continuum for **in-network** providers and by UCare for **out-of-network** providers. Medical injectable drug prior authorization resources can be found on the [Pharmacy page](#) of the provider website.

Formulary and plan benefit updates and reminders

MSHO and UCare Connect + Medicare

Higher-impact formulary changes (not an all-inclusive list):

Drug	Change for 2026	Formulary alternatives
OneTouch Test Strips and Meter	Formulary removal	Accu-Chek Test Strips and Meter (were also added to the 2025 formulary)
Lantus Solostar	Formulary removal	Insulin glargine-yfgn pen injector
Mirabegron	Formulary removal	Myrbetriq

Reminders:

- Members are encouraged to get their Part D vaccines at an in-network pharmacy. Part D vaccines administered in the clinic and submitted on a medical claim will be denied and members will need to submit a direct member reimbursement (DMR) request to Navitus.
- Drugs used for weight loss are excluded from coverage under Medicare Part D per section 1927(d)(2) of the Social Security Act. This includes weight loss drugs used for a non-cosmetic purpose (i.e., morbid obesity).

UCare Individual and Family Plans and UCare Individual and Family Plans with M Health Fairview

Higher-impact formulary change(s) (minimal changes for 2026, but not an all-inclusive list):

Drug	Change for 2026	Alternatives to consider
Freestyle Libre Sensor 2 and 3	Formulary removal (manufacturer discontinuation)	Freestyle Libre Sensor 2 and 3 Plus

Reminders:

- When a non-formulary drug is approved for coverage, it will take the highest tier co-insurance.
- Tier exception requests for a lower cost-sharing will not be granted.
- Certain cancer drugs are managed by a "split fill program" at Fairview Specialty Pharmacy. Within the first 90 days of treatment (up to six fills), certain oral oncology drugs are limited to a 14- or 15-day supply per fill depending on package size. Drugs included in this limitation are noted in the formulary with "SF."
- Members will pay no more than \$25 for each 30-day supply of insulin covered on the formulary (applies to copay plans and HSA plans).
- Members will pay no more than \$25 for each 30-day supply of formulary prescription drugs that are used to treat a chronic disease such as diabetes, asthma and allergies requiring the use of epinephrine auto-injectors (EpiPens). This benefit applies in and after deductible for copay plans versus after deductible for HSA and catastrophic plans.
- Members will pay no more than \$50 per month for durable medical equipment used to treat a chronic disease such as diabetes, asthma and allergies requiring the use of EpiPen. This benefit applies in and after deductible for copay plans vs after deductible for HSA and catastrophic plans.

MinnesotaCare, Minnesota Senior Care Plus (MSC+), Prepaid Medical Assistance Program (PMAP) and UCare Connect

UCare follows the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) Preferred Drug List (PDL). Coverage of PDL drugs for 2026 are determined by DHS' Drug Formulary Committee.

- PMAP, UCare Connect and MSC+ will continue to have \$0 copays for brand, generic and OTC prescriptions.
- Medically administered drugs will be removed from the formulary and will need to be obtained and administered at the provider's office.
- Costco Mail Order Pharmacy will continue to be available for Medical Assistance (Medicaid) members.
- Certain cancer drugs are managed by a "split fill program" at Fairview Specialty Pharmacy. Within the first 90 days of treatment (up to six fills), certain oral oncology drugs are limited to a 14- or 15-day supply per fill depending on package size. Drugs included in this limitation are noted in the formulary with "SF."

Questions?

- Visit the UCare.org [Provider Pharmacy page](#) for 2026 pharmacy information or ucare.org/providers.
- Call UCare's Provider Assistance Center at 612-676-3300 or 1-888-531-1493 toll free.