

Adapting to Changes for 2026

UnitedHealthcare MA Plans to Implement New Specialty Referral Requirements

UHC announced in October that their Medicare Advantage plans would require a referral for certain specialty visits beginning May 1. UHC is encouraging PCPs to start submitting referrals in January to get their workflow ironed out prior to the May 1 deadline to avoid payer denials as well as delays in patient access to specialty care.

In order for the specialist to be paid, a PCP will be required to submit a referral for the specialty visit. Even if the specialist is part of the same practice in the same TIN, a PCP must still complete a referral for specialty care coverage. Claims denied for lack of referral are to begin May 1, and will be considered provider liability, so that the patient cannot be balance billed. [click here for details from UHC](#)

FEB 4 Lunchtime Webinar: Wegovy Indications for MASH

A much more affordable treatment for MASH associated liver fibrosis to stave off need for a transplant

Screening and treatment indications
Coverage authorization details

[click here for info/rsvp](#)

Portal Access/Training to Create and Receive Referrals for UHC MA Specialist Visit Coverage

FEB 24 12:15 MetroCare presents a lunch webinar on the specialist referral process for UHC MA to include details on identifying which plans, which staff should initiate or receive it and how to create or receive a referral. [CLICK HERE](#)

New AmBetter Health Solutions Plans

If you are in network for AmBetter, your practice is automatically in these new marketplace plans effective Jan 1. Member cards for identification----->

This is informational only. MetroCare/HealthChoice do not contract/credential for these plans. Please contact AmBetter for assistance



Cigna Digital Platform Webinars

TOPIC	DATE & LINK TO RSVP	TIME		
CignaforHCP.com Overview	Thursday, January 15	12:00 PM	60 min	2534 387 8854
Eligibility & Benefits	Tuesday, January 20	12:00 PM	60 min	2535 865 8915
Checking Claim Status & Clear Claim Connection	Monday, January 26	12:00 PM	60 min	2537 835 9156
Online Appeals & Claim Reconsiderations	Thursday, January 29	12:00 PM	60 min	2532 237 1821
CignaforHCP.com Overview	Tuesday, February 3	11:00 AM	45 min	2532 900 8545
Eligibility & Benefits	Monday, February 9	12:00 PM	60 min	2535 284 4391
Checking Claim Status & Clear Claim Connection	Tuesday, February 17	1:00 PM	60 min	2538 530 4279
Online Appeals & Claim Reconsiderations	Tuesday, February 24	1:00 PM	60 min	2535 318 9176

[click here for info/rsvp](#)

UHC SUPPOSEDLY DELAYED PLAN TO END COVERAGE FOR REMOTE PHYSIOLOGIC MONITORING

It appears that we cannot be sure. [click here for details](#)

Medicare 2026 Physician Fee Schedule Lunchtime Webinars

CMS gives with one hand as it takes away with the other. After the first increase in the conversion factor in years, CMS will offset that increase for many providers by other downward adjustments. MetroCare will host lunchtime webinars on the 2026 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule **January 14 and 21 and February 4 and 18.**

SVMIC Noon Practice Management Webinars

Feb 5: Developing a Managed Care Strategy

Mar 5: Creating a Better Patient Financial Experience

Apr 9: Front Desk Best Practices

May 14: Health Literacy: Improving Patient Communication

Jun 18: Make Kind & Honest Feedback a Team Habit

Jul 23: Patient Experience: More Than Customer Service

Aug 20: Revenue Cycle Management

Sep 24: Navigating the No Surprises Act: Ensuring Compliance

Oct 22: HR Do's & Don'ts

Coding Boot Camp 2026! Free to MetroCare Physician practice staff

This free live online series of four webinars, three full days plus one hour test review, **January 16 and 23, February 13 and 20** is great for noncoders, coders, and physicians.

*****Catch-up CPT Updates if you missed them. Jan 28 9 AM*****

Coding by Specialty 3 Hour Webinars

Feb 20: 9AM Pediatrics

Mar 6: 9AM Urinary and Male Genital

1PM Op Notes

Mar 20: 9AM ENT and Plastics

1PM Integumentary

Apr 17: 9AM GI

1 PM Cardiology

[click here for more webinar info/rsvp](#)

We Are Here to Assist You

A dedicated team of professionals is committed to assuring MetroCare physicians have the tools and resources to achieve success with the changes required by transition to value-based healthcare.

Jimmie Mancell, MD

Chairman

t 901.360.1360

jimmie.mancell@metrocarephysicians.com

Clinical Services

Fran Parker

Provider Relations and

Quality Improvement

t 901.261.7791

fran.parker@metrocarephysicians.com

Wendy Hughes, LPN

Quality Reporting Coordinator

t 901.261.7790

wendy.hughes@metrocarephysicians.com



Education Services

Donna Pendergrass, MD, CPPM, CPCO Communications Director

t 901.261.7796

donna.pendergrass@

metrocarephysicians.com

MetroCare Physicians

telephone 901.360.1360 fax

901.360.1336

Taylor Bailey, MHA, SHRM-P

Executive Director

t 901.261.7804

taylor.bailey@metrocarephysicians.com

Credentialing Services

Kelly Jordan, CPMSM

Credentialing Manager

t 901.261.7797

kelly.jordan@metrocarephysicians.com

Teresa Stacks

Credentialing Specialist

t 901.261.7792

teresa.stacks@metrocarephysicians.com