



**McKESSON**

*Empowering Healthcare*

# Press Release

**General and Business Press:**

UnitedHealthCare Wisconsin  
Greg Thompson  
Phone: 312.424.6913  
Email: [gregory\\_a\\_thompson@uhc.com](mailto:gregory_a_thompson@uhc.com)

McKesson U.S. Pharmaceutical  
Matt Nagel, Cohn & Wolfe Public Relations  
Phone: 415.365.8523  
Email: [matt.nagel@cohnwolfe.com](mailto:matt.nagel@cohnwolfe.com)

Pharmacy Society of Wisconsin  
Kari Trapskin  
Phone: 608.827.9200  
Email: [karit@pswi.org](mailto:karit@pswi.org)

## **UnitedHealthcare Partners with McKesson to Deliver Medication Therapy Management Services in Wisconsin**

*Largest Private Insurer in Wisconsin to Improve Medication Use Statewide*

**Madison, WI — April 26, 2010** — Today, at a statewide meeting of the Pharmacy Society of Wisconsin (PSW), UnitedHealthcare announced that it has signed a contract with McKesson, a Fortune 14 healthcare and information technology company, to sponsor Medication Therapy Management (MTM) services administered by McKesson in Wisconsin. As the largest private insurer in Wisconsin, UnitedHealthcare will improve the quality and value of pharmacy services offered to more than 500,000 plan members in the state, increasing the number of persons receiving MTM services tenfold.

McKesson's MTM service was launched in 2008 with the [Wisconsin Pharmacy Quality Collaborative \(WPQC\)](#), a multi-organizational initiative led by the Pharmacy Society of Wisconsin. UnitedHealthcare joins Unity Health Insurance of Sauk City, WI, and Group Health Cooperative of South Central Wisconsin as a WPQC participant. Since the launch, participating pharmacies have performed a variety of patient intervention services, resulting in an annual average cost savings of \$700 per patient for participating payors.

The partnership will allow UnitedHealthcare plan members to better interact with their pharmacists to review the use of prescribed medication, thus helping to lower the frequency of adverse drug events and increasing medication adherence. Pharmacies participating in the WPQC program utilize an online system, provided by McKesson, to facilitate the delivery of the MTM services.

"As a healthcare insurance payor, it's essential that we look for new ways to help patients access affordable and efficacious care options to provide cost-effective preventative care and treatment of chronic conditions," said Terry Maves, pharmacy director of UnitedHealthcare Wisconsin. "We believe this program can help raise further awareness of the important and accessible role of pharmacists in healthcare — a role that can help patients improve and maintain their health as well as keep overall healthcare costs down."

"With the addition of UnitedHealthcare to our set of payer partners for whom we administer MTM services, we're able to further expand the reach of a very successful pilot program to improve medication adherence, and ultimately help improve patient health outcomes," said Brian Bertha, senior vice president, patient relationship solutions, McKesson U.S. Pharmaceutical. "By increasing collaboration and communication among pharmacists, payors, providers, and patients, MTM can help enhance the level of service provided to patients, reward and recognize high service pharmacies, and address rising healthcare spending."



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“Pharmacists play a critical role in patients’ overall care — their face-to-face interaction with patients enables them to provide clinical expertise to address patients’ personalized healthcare needs,” said Chris Decker, executive vice president & CEO of PSW. “We are excited that the expanded number of patients who will be receiving MTM services in Wisconsin will further the opportunity for pharmacists to play a needed role on patient’s healthcare team. Ensuring the appropriate use of medications is a thread that can tie together the coordination of care amongst multiple health care providers.”

For its partnership with McKesson in facilitating MTM services, the [Pharmacy Benefit Management Institute, LP](#) recognized Unity Health Plans and the Wisconsin Pharmacy Quality Collaborative as a recipient of the [2010 RxBenefit Innovation Award](#). The organizations were recognized for creating a provider/payor partnership that compensates community pharmacists for quality-based, value-added services.

For more information about McKesson’s MTM services, please call 800.571.2889, or email [healthsystems@mckesson.com](mailto:healthsystems@mckesson.com).

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## **About McKesson**

McKesson Corporation, currently ranked 14th on the FORTUNE 500, is a healthcare services and information technology company dedicated to helping its customers deliver high-quality healthcare by reducing costs, streamlining processes, and improving the quality and safety of patient care. Over the course of its 177-year history, McKesson has grown by providing pharmaceutical and medical-surgical supply management across the spectrum of care; healthcare information technology for hospitals, physicians, homecare and payors; hospital and retail pharmacy automation; and services for manufacturers and payors designed to improve outcomes for patients. For more information, visit <http://www.mckesson.com>.

## **About the Pharmacy Society of Wisconsin:**

The Pharmacy Society of Wisconsin is the state professional society representing pharmacists and pharmacy practices. With over 3,000 members, PSW is one of the nation’s largest state-based pharmacy organizations. PSW led the creation of the Wisconsin Pharmacy Quality Collaborative in 2006. WPQC is an initiative that includes both pharmacy provider and health care purchaser stakeholders. WPQC’s singular objective is to improve the quality and reduce the cost associated with medication use in Wisconsin. <http://www.pswi.org>

## **About UnitedHealthcare**

[UnitedHealthcare](#) provides a full spectrum of consumer-oriented health benefit plans and services to individuals, public sector employers and businesses of all sizes, including more than half of the Fortune 100 companies. The company organizes access to quality, affordable health care services on behalf of more than 25 million individual consumers, contracting directly with approximately 590,000 physicians and care professionals and more than 4,900 hospitals to offer them broad, convenient access to services nationwide. UnitedHealthcare is one of the businesses of UnitedHealth Group (NYSE: UNH), a diversified Fortune 50 health and well-being company.