



THE KEY TO A GOOD LIFE IS A GREAT PLAN

# Health TALK



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## It works!

### The flu shot keeps millions healthy.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently studied how well the flu shot works. They looked at flu data from the past six years. They found that the flu vaccine prevented:

- 13.6 million illnesses.
- 5.8 million doctor visits.
- 112,900 hospitalizations.

Everyone over the age of 6 months should get a flu shot each year. New shots become available in the fall. They protect against the types of flu experts predict will be most common this year. Get yourself and your family vaccinated soon.



**Get yours.** Flu shots are available in many locations. Need to find one that accepts your health plan? Visit **MyUHC.com/CommunityPlan** or call **1-877-542-8997 (TTY 711)**.

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# Know your numbers

It's important to control blood pressure.

Almost one in three adults has high blood pressure. It is also called hypertension. This means blood pressure of 140/90 or higher. Blood pressure higher than 120/80 but lower than 140/90 is considered prehypertension.

High blood pressure usually has no symptoms. This makes it easy for many people to ignore. But because it can lead to serious problems, it's important to treat it. Hypertension is a leading cause of stroke, heart attack, kidney disease and congestive heart failure. There are several things you can do to control your blood pressure.

- Limit salt to less than 1,500 mg per day.
- Limit alcohol to one drink a day for women or two for men (or less).
- Stay at a healthy weight.
- Exercise for at least 30 minutes a day.
- Do not smoke.
- Manage stress.



**See your doctor.** If lifestyle changes are not enough, your doctor may suggest medication. There are many different kinds of medicines that lower blood pressure. Be sure to keep all follow-up appointments with your doctor. Check your blood pressure often.



## Beyond the baby blues

After your baby is born, your hormones go through big changes. This can make you feel very emotional. It's common to feel weepy, angry, worried or anxious beginning two to three days after delivery. These are normal feelings.

If these feelings do not go away after a week or start to get worse, you could have postpartum depression. Other symptoms include trouble taking care of yourself or your baby, or being unable to do daily tasks. You may feel anxious or have panic attacks. You may think you can't cope with the challenges of motherhood. You may even be afraid you might hurt yourself or your baby.

If you think you may have postpartum depression, talk to your provider right away. It can get better with treatment. Try to take good care of yourself. Eat well and get as much rest as you can. Ask your partner, family and friends for help with the household and the baby. Talk with someone you trust.



**Get screened.** Part of the postpartum visit is a screening for postpartum depression. See your provider four to six weeks after you give birth. If you had a C-section, also see your provider two weeks after delivery.



## We care about quality

UnitedHealthcare Community Plan's Quality Improvement program works to give our members better care and services. Each year we report how well we are providing health care services. Many of the things we report on are major public health issues.

In 2012, our goal was to increase the number of well visits for children ages 3–6 and increase the number of women who saw a doctor early in their pregnancy and had follow-up visits with their doctor after they gave birth. In 2013, we found that more women were going to the doctor early in their pregnancy as well as seeing their doctor after giving birth. The number of well visits for children ages 3–6 was below our goal.

In 2013–2014, we will continue to encourage and try to obtain higher rates of well visits for babies, children and teenagers. We also will try to increase the number of members who have breast cancer screenings, pap screens and cholesterol screens.

We also conduct member surveys each year to see how well we are meeting our members' needs. Our 2013 surveys showed improvement for the third year in a row in how our members rate getting the care they need, how well their doctors talk to them and how our customer service center treats them. We continue to try to improve our customer service center and now have specialists who can work with members who call more than once about a problem.



**Get it all.** If you would like to know more about our Quality Improvement program and our progress toward meeting goals, please call **1-877-542-8997 (TTY 711)**.



# You can quit

## Join the Great American Smokeout.

Tobacco use is the largest preventable cause of disease in the United States. It's also the No. 1 cause of premature death. Yet, one in five Americans still smokes cigarettes. Millions more people smoke cigars or pipes or chew tobacco. If you are one of more than 60 million tobacco users in the U.S., it's time to quit.

The Great American Smokeout may be a good day for you to quit tobacco — even if it's just for one day. This yearly event takes place this fall on Nov. 21.



**You can do it.** Talk to your doctor about medications that can help. You can also increase your chances of success with support. Call the The Quit For Life® Program at **1-866-QUIT-4-LIFE (1-866-784-8454)**. Nicotine patches and gum are available.



## GOOD GUIDANCE

UnitedHealthcare Community Plan has practice guidelines that help providers make health care decisions. These guidelines come from nationally recognized sources. There are practice guidelines for conditions including:

- asthma
- attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)
- bipolar disorder
- chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)
- depression
- diabetes
- heart disease
- heart failure
- high blood pressure
- obesity
- prenatal care
- pediatric preventive health care
- substance abuse disorders
- transplants



**In the know.** You can find our practice guidelines at **UHCCCommunityPlan.com**.

