



prescription for health

Help Paying for Prescription Medicine*

Your doctor prescribed a medicine for you, but money is tight. A good place to start in finding a way to make prescription medicines more affordable is to talk to your doctor or pharmacist. There are programs that may offer financial support for prescription drugs. This guide can help you with these programs.



Finding Affordable Care

Health insurance can help pay for some medication costs. The Affordable Care Act was created to provide access to health insurance plans to all Americans. If you have insurance, you may be better able to afford your medicines. Go to www.healthcare.gov to get started finding a health plan.

Know Your Options

Prescription drugs can be expensive, even with health insurance. There are many programs offered by the government, states, pharmaceutical companies, and nonprofit groups to help you pay for your medication. Learn more about the different programs. Check out the programs below to find out which options may be right for you.

Government Programs

- **Medicare**

www.medicare.gov/part-d/index.html

Medicare is the US government's health insurance program for people over the age of 65. Some people under the age of 65 with certain disabilities may also be able to get coverage through Medicare. There are two program options: Medicare Prescription Drug Plan (Part D) or Medicare Advantage Plan (Part C) that can help pay for prescription drugs. You will need to enroll in a plan during certain times of the year.

- **Medicare Extra Help**

www.ssa.gov/medicare/prescriptionhelp

If you are covered under Medicare and meet certain income guidelines, you may be eligible for the Social Security Administration's Extra Help program. This program will help with the cost of monthly medical fees and medicines.

*This brochure is intended as a general information guide only. It is not meant to replace professional medical advice. Not all programs may be listed. Programs could include eligibility requirements, registration, membership, or fees. The programs and websites listed are neither owned nor endorsed by Pfizer.

- **Veterans Affairs**

www.va.gov

If you are a veteran and need help paying for your medicines, the US Department of Veterans Affairs has programs available. With veteran's benefits, you may be able to get your medications for free or for a copayment ("copay"). A copayment is the amount an insured person will have to pay for a health care service or medicine at the point of care.

- **Medicaid**

www.medicaid.gov

Medicaid is a health insurance program sponsored by your state. It is available to low-income US residents of any age. Your state may have a different name for Medicaid (in California it is called Medi-Cal). Each state has different criteria that must be met to be able to receive care under this program.

- **Other State Programs**

www.medicare.gov/pharmaceutical-assistance-program/state-programs.aspx.

Many states have prescription drug programs that are not part of Medicaid. These programs can help you afford your medicine. Sometimes, a state program is linked to Medicare's drug plan (Part D).

Pharmaceutical Company Support

- **Medicine Assistance Tool (MAT)**

www.medicineassistancetool.org

This website can help you find assistance programs if you don't have insurance coverage or can't afford to pay for your prescriptions. MAT helps match you to the right assistance program for your prescription medication. It is supported by biopharmaceutical research companies.

- **More Help**

Find out the name of the company that makes your prescription medicine. The name should be on the prescription bottle. You can also ask your doctor or pharmacist. Go to the company's website. Eligible patients could receive support services, copay help, and access to medicines for free or at a savings.

Your Health Care Provider and Pharmacist

- Talk to your doctor and pharmacist about your prescription drug costs. They can help. Ask your doctor or pharmacist if they know of any offers through the pharmaceutical company. Your doctor's office may have samples of medicines or savings cards available. This is especially true when beginning a new medicine.

Where to Find More Information

These websites may help you find programs that will help you pay for your prescription drugs.

- **BenefitsCheckUp provided by the National Council on Aging**

www.benefitscheckup.org | 202-479-1200

This nonprofit service and advocacy organization offers adults over the age of 55 help in paying for prescription drugs, health care, utilities, and other basic needs.

- **HealthWell Foundation**

www.healthwellfoundation.org | 800-675-8416

The HealthWell Foundation provides financial assistance for eligible individuals to cover coinsurance, copays, health care premiums, and deductibles for certain medications and therapies. They may also be able to provide assistance for patients who are eligible for health insurance but cannot afford the insurance premium. On their website there is a list of the disease states they support and the medications they cover.

- **Needy Meds**

www.needy meds.org | info@needy meds.org | 800-503-6897

NeedyMeds is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping people locate assistance programs to help them afford their medications and other health care costs. All their information is free and updated regularly.

- **Patient Access Network Foundation (PAN)**

www.panfoundation.org | 866-316-7263

PAN Foundation helps patients suffering from certain cancers, chronic illnesses, and rare diseases connect with one of more than 50 disease-specific financial assistance programs. Assistance includes covering out-of-pocket and medical expenses.

- **Patient Advocate Foundation: Co-pay Relief (CPR) Program**

www.copays.org | 866-512-3861

For selected conditions, CPR provides help with health insurance copays and deductibles for prescription medicine. Visit the website or call for a complete list of covered medical conditions and to apply for assistance.

- **Patient Services, Inc. (PSI)**

www.patientservicesinc.org | 800-366-7741

PSI is a nonprofit patient assistance program that provides financial support and guidance for qualified patients with certain rare chronic diseases. PSI helps subsidize the costs of health insurance premiums and out-of-pocket costs and offers a variety of other assistance services free of charge through the Advocating for Chronic Conditions, Entitlements and Social Services program.

- **RxAssist**

www.rxassist.org | info@rxassist.org

RxAssist maintains a comprehensive database of pharmaceutical patient assistance programs which provide free or reduced-cost medications.

- **Rx Outreach**

www.rxoutreach.org

Rx Outreach is a nonprofit mail-order pharmacy which provides medicine at an affordable cost for those who qualify. They offer access to more than 900 medications.

There are many options available for help in paying for medications. With a little legwork, it may be possible to receive prescription medications at low or no cost. Now you know there is help paying for your prescription medications, take the next step and find out what may work best for you.

