

## Guide for Helping Patients Afford Their Medications

<b>Medication Discount Programs<sup>a</sup></b>					
<b>Program</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Eligibility<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>Enrollment</b>	<b>Formulary</b>	<b>Discount</b>
<b>AARP Prescription Discount Program</b>	\$19.95	Individuals who are 50 years or older who are members of AARP. Those with Part D coverage can use this card as a back-up for medicines not covered by their plans.	877-422-7719	Discounts on more than 5,000 prescription medicines.	Discounts of up to 53%, with an average savings of 20%.
<b>AZ &amp; Me</b> (AstraZeneca)	Free	Uninsured individuals with an income below \$30,000, couples with an income below \$40,000, families of three with an income of less than \$50,000, and so on. Medicare enrollees who are eligible for the Limited Income Subsidy are eligible.	800-292-6363 or AZandMe.com	Many AstraZeneca prescription medicines.	For patients with Medicare Part D, the maximum co-pay for a 30-day supply is \$25, and for a 90-day supply it's \$50.  For patients with no insurance, medications are free.
<b>GSK Access</b> (GlaxoSmithKline)	Free	Medicare Part D participants who have spent \$600 on medicines through their Part D plan, and who do not qualify for the Part D Low Income Subsidy. Must have income at or below 250% of the FPL.	866-518-HELP or www.gsk-access.com	Over 50 GSK prescription medicines.	Prescriptions are free.
<b>Bridges to Access</b> (GlaxoSmithKline)	Free	Non-Medicare patients and Medicare participants who do not have prescription drug coverage and who do not qualify for the Part D Low Income Subsidy. Must have income at or below 250% of the FPL.	888-825-5249 or www.bridgestoaccess.com	Over 50 GSK prescription medicines.	\$10 co-pay for a 60-day supply. Refills must be obtained through GSK mail order pharmacy.

*More . . .*

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<b>Lilly Medicare Answers Program</b> (Eli Lilly)	Free	Medicare Part D participants, not dual-eligible, with incomes at or below a specified percent of the FPL and proof of Low Income Subsidy denial. An assistance program for <i>Forteo</i> is available for non-Medicare patients.	877-RX-LILLY or www.lillymedicareanswers.com	teriparatide ( <i>Forteo</i> ), olanzapine ( <i>Zyprexa</i> ), somatropin ( <i>Humatrope</i> )	Medication is free.
<b>Merck Patient Assistance Program</b> (Merck)	Free	Those with no prescription drug coverage and an income of 400% or less of the FPL. (Call 800-727-5400 for income limits in Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, and Guam). Exceptions may be requested.	800-727-5400 or www.merck.com/merckhelps/patientassistance/	Many Merck prescription medicines.	Prescriptions are free.
<b>Merck Prescription Discount Program</b> (Merck)	Free	All uninsured individuals.	800-50-MERCK or www.merck.com/merckhelps/uninsured/home.html	Several Merck prescription medicines.	Savings of 10% to 20%.
<b>Pfizer Pfriends</b> (Pfizer)	Free	All uninsured individuals.	866-776-3700 or www.pfizerhelpfulanswers.com	Many Pfizer prescription medicines.	Estimated average savings of up to 32%.

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<b>Pharmacy Reward</b> (NeedyMeds)	Free	Everyone	www.pharmacyreward.com /needymeds/index.cfm	All Rx drugs. Check website for participating pharmacies.	Participants pay pharmacy's lowest price. Members save money about 90% of the time.
<b>Rx Help for You</b> (Elect Benefits Global Marketing Corp)	Free	Everyone	800-613-4841 or www.rxhelpforyou.com	Many brand name Rx drugs. Check website for participating pharmacies.	Savings of up to 50%.
<b>Together Rx Access Card</b>  Abbott Bristol-Myers Squibb GlaxoSmithKline Janssen King McNeil Pediatrics Novartis Ortho-Biotech Ortho-McNeil Pfizer Sanofi-aventis Takeda Tap Tibotec	Free	People who are not eligible for Medicare and have no prescription drug coverage of any kind.  Must have incomes of less than \$45,000 per year for a single person, \$60,000 for a family of two, \$75,000 for a family of three, \$90,000 for a family of four, and \$105,000 for a family of five. (Families of six or more and residents of Alaska and Hawaii should contact the Together Rx Access Program at 800-444-4106).	800-444-4106 or www.togetherrxaccess.com	More than 300 brand name medicines (list is continually updated and available at the Together Rx Access website). Savings are also available on generic drugs.	From 25% to 40% on brand name and generic prescription medicines.

<b>Web-based Resources for Patient Assistance Programs</b>	
<b>Information Source</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>www.needymeds.com</b>	Site lists brand and generic medications that are available through patient assistance programs. There is also a listing of manufacturers who have patient assistance programs. Information about Medicaid, Medicare, and other state assistance programs is also available.
<b>www.rxassist.org</b> <b>401-729-3284</b>	Provides information on patient assistance programs through company, brand, and generic name search. Has information for patients describing various options for prescription assistance.
<b>www.pparx.com</b> <b>888-477-2669</b>	Site sponsored by the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA). Allows search for programs by manufacturer (programs from non-member companies are not listed). Also, provides information on other patient assistance programs available.
<b>www.rxhope.com</b> <b>732-507-7400</b>	Provides patient assistance information through manufacturer or drug search. Advanced search available to help patients determine eligibility for various state- and company-sponsored patient assistance programs. Online applications for patient assistance.
<b>www.benefitscheckup.org</b>	Provides a personalized report of public and private programs available to help reduce costs of prescription drugs. Also includes online application for Medicare Rx Extra Help (low income subsidy information). Site geared toward aiding seniors age 55 and over. Service provided by the National Council on the Aging.
<b>www.accesstobenefits.org</b> <b>202-479-6670</b>	Provides information on the patient's eligibility for prescription savings programs (utilizing BenefitsCheckUpRx) and available state programs. Enrollment forms for various programs, including Medicare Rx Extra Help (low income subsidy information) are available. Site geared toward low-income Medicare beneficiaries (seniors and younger patients with disabilities).

*—Continue to the next page for more cost saving tips—*

## Other Cost Saving Tips

**Review patients' medications.** Look for:

- duplicates or overlapping drugs that can be eliminated;
- brand products that can be switched to generics;
- additional switches that can make meds more affordable (check *Consumer Reports Best Buy Drugs* [<http://www.consumerreports.org/health/best-buy-drugs/index.htm>] for medications that are considered best values for treating specific disease states).

**Recommend pill splitting** when appropriate, for drugs that are priced similarly between strengths. This includes most statins, amlodipine, sertraline, and metoprolol extended-release tablets. *Viagra* is another example of a tablet that can be split to reduce costs.

**Suggest purchasing larger quantities of medication** at one time. Sometimes a 90- or 120-day supply can cost less and reduce the amount spent on co-pays compared to a 30-day supply.

**Drug Samples** can save patients money upfront. However, sometimes they can end up costing more in the long run. Patients get stabilized on and have to pay for these meds, which are often newer and more expensive. Save samples for drugs that don't have more affordable alternatives, or are used short term such as antibiotics.

Some **organizations**, like the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, will help patients pay for the cost of treatments for specific diseases.

<sup>a</sup>Only money paid by STATE assistance programs contributes to out-of-pocket expenses for Medicare Part D participants.

<sup>b</sup>FPL is the Federal Poverty Level. For the 48 contiguous states and D.C., the FPL for 2009 for an individual is \$10,830; \$14,570 for a family of two; \$18,310 for a family of three; \$22,050 for a family of four; and \$25,790 for a family of five. For further information and figures for Alaska and Hawaii, go to [aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/09poverty.shtml](http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/09poverty.shtml).

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**Cite this Detail-Document as follows:** *Guide for helping patients afford their medications. Pharmacist's Letter/Prescriber's Letter 2009;25(5):250501.*



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