

Cascade Health Solutions

Prescription Assistance



NEED HELP PAYING FOR YOUR MEDICINE?

THERE IS HELP AVAILABLE IN LANE COUNTY

SPONSORED BY

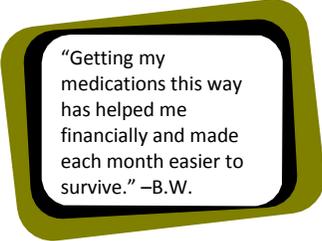
Cascade Health Solutions

What is Prescription Assistance?

With the escalating costs of medications, many low-income, uninsured people are finding it more and more difficult, if not impossible at times, to obtain prescribed medications. As a result, some people are reducing their dosing amounts without a physician's approval or even stopping their prescriptions completely.

Many pharmaceutical companies offer financial assistance with prescription needs. Free or reduced cost medications are available to people meeting income guidelines and who do not have prescription insurance coverage. The programs and application process vary with each company which complicates the process for many people. Cascade Health Solutions' Prescription Assistance program can help.

This guide will provide you with options on how to access help with your prescription needs. If you have received this guide from your physician's office, then you are in luck. That means that your physician is willing to work with others in your community to assist you in applying for pharmaceutical assistance. If you have received this guide from any other source you will need to ask your doctor if they are willing to sign prescription assistance applications. Medications are usually provided free or for a nominal fee depending upon the company.



"Getting my medications this way has helped me financially and made each month easier to survive." –B.W.

Getting Started

The first and most important thing you need to do is read this information completely. After you have read the information, you are ready to get started. To apply for prescription assistance takes the cooperation of your physician - for signatures, additional information or a written prescription. Please make sure your physician is willing to sign the application forms.

The key to gaining assistance through pharmaceutical companies is that you cannot have prescription coverage through an insurance company, although some companies are making provisions for Medicare Part D patients who are in the donut hole. You also need to fall within certain income guidelines set by each pharmaceutical company. Income levels vary from below poverty upwards to 250% above the Federal poverty guideline (see chart at end of this document.) If you have determined that you may be eligible, call 541-744-8546 to set up an appointment. When you call this number please leave your name, telephone number and what medical clinic or physician you see. Someone will call you back within 48 hours to set up an appointment. If your physician has faxed a referral form you will automatically be contacted by a local assistance program staff member.

Medication Information

You will need a complete list of all prescriptions that your physician has prescribed and that you are presently taking. Your physician may provide a list as part of the referral process, but it is always a good idea for you to provide a complete list as you may take other medications prescribed by another physician.

The following information will be helpful:



Name of drug

Dosage strength Number of pills per day

Prescribing physician

Cost for a 30-day supply (This may be helpful for providing alternate options if your medication is not available through a free program.)

Financial Information

Since prescription assistance is based upon financial guidelines, it will be necessary for you to provide proof of income. Many of the programs require that you send copies of financial documentation with the application. Prescription assistance staff will ask you for income details that are requested by most pharmaceutical companies. You may be asked to provide this information over the phone prior to your appointment.

"Prior to using patient assistance I paid for my drugs, but went without food, heat and gas to be able to afford them." -C.T.

On the day of your appointment you will need to bring any of the following items that apply to your situation:

- Social Security benefit statement (SSA 1099)
- Pension confirmation letter or check stub
- Most recent Federal income tax return
- Current paycheck stubs (last two months if employed)
- Confirmation of unemployment
- Medicaid denial letter (issued within last 12 months)
- Medicare card (if applicable)
- US Green card (non-US citizens)

You will also need to provide your Social Security number which is required on most applications for pharmaceutical assistance programs.

Note: If you do not bring the required documentation, this will cause delays and will lengthen the time that it will take for the application to be mailed to the pharmaceutical company. IF you do not have a copy of any of the above items that apply to your situation you will need to request a copy from the source that provided the original document.

Once you have met with the prescription assistance staff, provided your documentation and signed all the paperwork, your applications will be routed to your physician for their signature and any required prescriptions. This may take a few days. When the signed applications are ready and documentation has been attached to the applications they will be mailed or faxed to the specific pharmaceutical program for final determination. Determination takes up to four weeks.

If you are approved, you will most likely receive a letter from the pharmaceutical company telling you of your approval and that a supply of medication will be sent to your physician's office. Most companies send a 90-day supply at a time. Approval is normally for one year and then you have to reapply with new income information. Refills are handled differently by each company. Your prescription assistance staff will inform you about how refills will be ordered.

The pharmaceutical company will also inform you if your application is denied. It may be denied if information is missing, if so you can resubmit it with the proper information. If you are denied because you did not meet their income guidelines, please refer to the other low-cost options under the resources section.

Other Ways to Save Costs

There are other types of programs that may save you money. Discount drug cards can save you a percentage of the costs of your medications. Some suggested card programs are listed under the resources section.

If you cannot get your medication through a free pharmaceutical assistance program you could ask your physician or pharmacist if they can recommend any of the following changes:

- Could a generic drug be prescribed instead of a brand?
- Could the dosage be adjusted so you can order a larger dose and cut pills in half?
- Is there a less expensive drug in the same therapeutic class?

The cost of medication can vary greatly from one pharmacy to the next. Be sure to call a few different pharmacies to find the lowest cost for your drugs. Did you know that you can use Costco pharmacy without being a member? They have very competitive prices and their mail-order pharmacy will ship without an additional charge.

There are several low-cost mail-order pharmacies that provide a 90-day supply of **generic** drugs for a low administrative cost of \$20 and \$30 dollars. See information under the resource section below.

Resources

Low Cost Generic Mail Order Pharmacies

RX Outreach

(800)769-3880

<http://www.rxoutreach.com>

Call for an application and list of generic drugs available for \$20 and up for a 90 or 180 day supply. No shipping charges. Medication list and application online.

Xubex Pharmaceutical Services

(866-699-8239)

www.xubex.com

Call for an application and list of generic drugs available for \$20 and up for a 90-day supply. Shipping costs additional. There is also a copay assistance program with Xubex.

Local low-cost pharmacy options: Wal-Mart and Target's \$4 generic drugs

Contact your local Wal-Mart or Target pharmacy or download the list of available drugs from:

Wal-Mart: http://i.walmartimages.com/i/hmp/fusion/customer_list.pdf

Target: http://sites.target.com/site/en/health/generic_drugs.jsp

Costco Pharmacy

541-342-5701

<http://www.costco.com/pharmacy/druginformation.aspx?p=1>

You do not have to be a member to use their pharmacy. They have some of the lowest prices on brand name drugs.

Drug Discount Cards

Drug discount cards are offered by for-profit or non-profit entities or pharmaceutical manufacturers which have made arrangements with pharmacies to discount certain drugs.

Together RXAccess

This card is sponsored by 12 pharmaceutical manufacturers. It is free and offers a 25-40% discount over 300 brand-name and generic prescription drugs as well as other prescription products, such as glucose test strips. To apply you cannot be eligible for Medicare, cannot have prescription drug coverage, must have a household income of less than 300% of Federal poverty level. Can be used at most pharmacies. Call 1-800-444-4106 or visit: www.togetherrxaccess.com

Pfizer's "Pfizer Pfriends"

This card offers 15-50% on 88 Pfizer medicines to individuals without prescription coverage. Enrollment is free. You must be a legal U.S. resident. Individuals earning \$30,000 or less per year, or families earning \$45,000 or less have access to greater savings. No income verification required. Must apply annually. To apply call 1-866-706-2400 or visit:

<http://www.pfizerhelpfulanswers.com/pages/programs/programdetails.aspx?p=1>

Oregon Prescription Drug Program

This card is offered by the State of Oregon. Enrollment is free. You must be a resident of Oregon **and** not have prescription drug coverage (this does not include Medicare Part D).

Call 1-800-913-4146 or complete application at:

https://www.cdshealthplans.com/securedformsweb/ods/drug_card_opdp.jsp

Using the OPDP card offers a percentage discount depending on the drug you are purchasing. The greatest discount will be on generic drugs. If you have Medicare Part D coverage, you can use your card during the times you are required to pay 50% out of pocket while in the "donut hole".

Medicare Part D

If you need help understanding or signing up for Medicare Part D prescription coverage you can contact:

State Health Insurance and Benefit Association (SHIBA)

1-800-722-4134

Medicare recipients having trouble paying the premiums and deductibles associated with their plan can apply for assistance by completing a low-income subsidy (LIS) application available through local Social Security offices. An application can also be completed online at:

<https://secure.ssa.gov/apps6z/i1020/main.html>

Call the local Social Security office for more information about the eligibility requirements as eligibility is based upon income and resources. If you qualify for State help paying the Medicare Part B premium you will automatically qualify for the LIS assistance.

Other Prescription Assistance Providers

Each of the following medical groups has their own on-site staff to assist their patients with prescription assistance applications:

PEACEHEALTH MEDICAL GROUP

Patient Assistance Program

Contact your individual provider for help

Or call: 541-687-6000

RIVERSTONE COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

2073 Olympic Street

Springfield, OR 97477

682-3550

VOLUNTEERS IN MEDICINE

2260 Marcola Road

Springfield OR 97477

685-1800—Main office

335-2710—Prescription Assistance office

VIMPAP@peacehealth.org

WHITE BIRD CLINIC

1400 Mill Street

Eugene, OR 97401

541-484-4800

If you are a patient of any other provider in Lane County you may be referred by your physician's office or you can contact the following service directly:

CASCADE HEALTH SOLUTIONS

Prescription Assistance

1600 H Street

Springfield, OR 97477

541-744-8546

lroy@cascadehealth.org

Helpful Websites:

This information is offered for people who know how to use a computer and the Internet or know someone that can help access this information.

<http://www.benefitscheckup.org>

For people 55 and over. Use this website to find information about private or government programs that help with medications, rent, property taxes, heating bills, meals and other needs. Typically takes 20-30 minutes to answer the questions and view the results. It takes only 10-15 if inquiring only about medication. BenefitsCheckUp identifies programs that you should investigate further. It does not determine whether or not you shall receive benefits nor does it enroll you in any benefit programs. It is your responsibility to apply for all programs

<http://www.needymeds.com>

This website allows you to use their drug list to look up your medications to see if they are available through a pharmaceutical patient assistance program. Applications are available on the website, but check with your physician or on-site patient assistance staff before completing the application(s) as they may have software that does all the work.

If you are a veteran you may be eligible for coverage through Tricare, a Department of Defense program. You may be able to get your medications at low government prices by contacting the Veterans Administration or going to their website:

http://www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits_book/benefits_chap01.asp

<http://www.destinationrx.com>

This site offers information and education on drugs and alternatives and a price-comparison tool for finding the pharmacy with the best price for your medication.

<http://www.medicare.gov>

This website offers invaluable information about all aspects of Medicare.

2011 HHS Poverty Guidelines

Persons in Family	100%	200%	250%
1	\$10,890	\$21,780	\$27,225
2	14,710	29,421	36,775
3	18,530	37,060	46,325
4	22,350	44,700	55,875
5	26,170	52,340	65,425
6	29,990	59,980	74,975
7	33,810	67,620	84,525
8	37,630	75,260	94,075

If your income falls into the above categories you may qualify for help with your prescription drug(s).