

Medicare Share

Were any of you among the 65,000 Missourians who lost the Missouri RX Assistance Program? If you were, I will bet you have been scrambling to find a solution for your prescription drug costs! Did you call the 1-800 number for SHIP CLAIM to have a Medicare Counselor help you? Did you call the Shepherd Center of Kansas City Central to speak to one of our Medicare Counselors for assistance? On the other hand, did you call your insurance agent? Did you know your insurance agent does not search for all levels of solutions as Medicare Counselors do? Medicare Counselors also do not work for a commission. We are advocates for YOU. This is the reason the Social Security office, CMS, Medicare, and even insurance offices send you to us for assistance.

Some of the options to reduce your prescription drug costs can be as simple as changing the pharmacy you fill your prescriptions at. Others can be pharmaceutical assistance programs you may qualify for on name brand medications. There are also options of changing plans, looking at generic medications when available, switching to less costly like medications, requesting plan formulary exceptions, and even qualifying for state or federal assistance programs you may not have qualified for previously, but do now because the income limits have changed. This is a great reminder to look at your plan EVERY open enrollment season with a Medicare counselor to ensure your medications will be covered by your plan for the following year, and your plan will still be saving you the most money. As caregivers, you must take care of yourselves first before you can take care of others. Nothing is without hope. Please call us for your needs!!

- By Kori Ross, AmeriCorps CLAIM Medicare Counselor and Senior Advocate