

Many patients do not take their medications because they cannot afford them, while others skip medication doses or delay filling a prescription in order to save money. This handout provides resources to assist patients with prescription access and cost savings.

TECHNIQUES TO DEAL WITH PATIENT MEDICATION FINANCIAL CHALLENGES

- Cash price or coupon price may be less expensive than using commercial insurance or Medicare
- Options at certain pharmacies, such as \$4 and \$10 medication lists (Walmart, Amazon, Cost Plus)
- There are many different mobile apps and websites for discounts. A few of the most common are listed here, however please note this list is not all inclusive:
 - BlinkRx
 - Care Card
 - GoodRx
 - NeedyMeds
 - RxSaver
 - SingleCare
 - Valpak Rx
 - WellRx

Prescription Advantage (www.prescriptionadvantagemma.org)

- MA state-sponsored prescriptions drug assistance program for seniors and people with disabilities who meet income and employment guidelines
 - Members assigned to membership category (see [handout](#))
 - May be available for individuals not eligible for Medicare
 - Not just for low income
 - Medicare is the primary drug insurance and Prescription Advantage is a secondary payor
 - Depending on membership category, may have an enrollment fee of up to \$200 (ie for higher income)
 - **Best to enroll early in year to capture all out-of-pocket spending**
- Note:** Have Prescription Advantage card on file at pharmacy so total costs will be captured

GoodRx (www.goodrx.com)

- **Patients with insurance:** May be a suitable option for medications not covered by insurance
- Discount coupons **cannot be** used in combination with insurance to lower the co-pay amount
- **Patients without insurance:** May be a suitable option if beats the cash price for medications
- Flexible Savings Accounts/Health Savings Accounts may be used to purchase prescriptions
- Good for use in place of high co-pays / deductible plans, however, will not count towards deductible

How To Use



Compare Prices
GoodRx collects prices and discounts from over 70,000 US pharmacies



Print Free Coupons
Can send coupons to your phone via email or text message



Save up to 80%
Show the coupon to the pharmacy for massive savings on your medications

Patients with Medicare: GoodRx may be a suitable option for patients in the donut hole, however it may lengthen time in donut hole as it would not contribute to donut hole spending.

COST-RELATED MEDICATION QUESTIONS

Patient Handout – Page 2 of 2

NeedyMeds (www.needymeds.org)

- Search by drug name to find the information
 - Patient assistance programs, coupons/rebates/and more, patient information videos, written patient information

Social Security Extra Help ([see link](#))

- Helps people with limited income and resources to lower or cut Part D Costs
- **Extra Help patient information booklet** (see [handout](#))
- Individual must meet criteria (varies) to qualify

OPTIONS FOR ADDRESSING FINANCIAL CHALLENGES IN FILLING PRESCRIPTIONS

MCPHS University Pharmacy Outreach Program

- Community service program offered by the University and staffed by case managers, licensed pharmacists and students, and SHINE counselors, whose goal is to help patients adhere to their medication regimens
- Call-in service **FREE For All MA Residents** where patients will receive a comprehensive review of medications and prescription drug coverage
- Includes assistance with accessing affordable prescription drug programs through Medicare Drug benefit, as well as medication assistance options for other uninsured or underinsured residents of MA
- Available **Monday through Friday 8:30A – 5P (Toll-Free Help Line: (866) 633-1617)**
- **Website:** <https://www.mcphs.edu/patient-centers/pharmacy-outreach-program>

MA SHINE Program - Serving Health Information Need of Everyone

- Trained and certified volunteers that assist in many areas of health insurance, including Medicare (Part A, B, and D), retiree insurance, prescription drug programs, and Medicaid
- **To schedule an appointment call: 1-800-AGE-INFO (1-800-243-4636)**

NH SHIP Program – State Health Insurance Assistance Program

- Free, confidential, and unbiased health insurance counseling
- **Contact:** www.shiphelp.org or call **1-866-634-9412**