

# **Drug Assistance Programs: What's Available and How to Access them**

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# Drug Assistance Programs: What's Available and How to Access them

## Disclosure of Conflict of Interest Information

### I have the following relationships that exist related to this presentation:

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# Patient Assistance Programs

- Aimed primarily at people whose household incomes are below \$20,000 annually, \$26,000 for a couple, \$34,000 for family of three, \$40,000 for a family of four
- Include asset tests – generally, ineligible if assets exceed \$15,000 to \$20,000
- Typically, must be US Citizen or a resident with green card
- Some assistance for Medicare beneficiaries (see Consumer Report article, page 1) and individuals with private insurance
- No assistance if enrolled in Medicaid
- Some flexibility and take into account individual circumstances



Helping the Community Breathe Easier



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### What's New

- > This Just In: [Black-White Health Disparities in the US and Chicago: A 15-Year Progress Analysis](#)
- > In the News: [CAC Disparities Work Recognized in ChicagoNow](#)
- > Newly Released: [2009-2014 Illinois Asthma Strategic Plan, Addressing Asthma in Illinois](#)
- > In the News: [CAC Town Hall Mtgs. featured in the Chi'town Daily News](#)
- > Recently Updated: [CAC Guide to Asthma Publications](#)
- > New Study: [Are We Closing the Disparity Gap?: Small-Area Analysis of Asthma in Chicago](#)
- > Members: [Click here](#) to view new job postings and the membership directory.

### Upcoming Events



- [4/8 - Certified Asthma Educator Exam: A Preparatory Workshop](#)
- [4/8 - Clinic Rating Grant Applications Due](#)
- [4/15 - What's New in the Pipeline: Clinical Advances in Asthma Care](#)
- [4/25 - Illinois Society of Asthma, Allergy, and Immunology Educational Meeting](#)
- [4/26 - CAC School Task Force Meeting](#)
- [More Events >](#)

[www.chicagoasthma.org](http://www.chicagoasthma.org)

### Welcome to the Chicago Asthma Consortium!

The Chicago Asthma Consortium is a coalition of medical and public health professionals, business leaders, government agencies, community-based organizations, and individuals dedicated to improving the quality of life for people with asthma through networking, information sharing, and collaboration. [Learn More](#)

[JOIN THE CAC >](#)

[CLINIC SEARCH >](#)

[RATE A CLINIC >](#)

[En Español](#)

Search CAC

#### Community Updates



[COMMUNITY GRANT OPPORTUNITY!](#)  
Help rate clinics listed in the [Clinic Search on CAC's Website](#)  
Grant Applications due by 5:00 p.m. on April 8, 2010



**Registration Open - 2010 Spring Meeting**  
[What's New in the Pipeline: Clinical Advances in Asthma Care](#)  
April 15, 2010, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.  
Register Today! \$15 CAC members, \$30 non-members



[AE-C Exam: A Preparatory Workshop](#)  
April 8-9, 2010  
\$25 DISCOUNT FOR CAC MEMBERS!



[Illinois Society of Asthma, Allergy, and Immunology Meeting](#)  
April 25, 2010, 8:00 a.m. to noon  
\$10 DISCOUNT FOR CAC MEMBERS!



[Beating Back Bed Bugs Workshop](#)  
April 27, 2010, 9:00 a.m. - noon  
\$25 DISCOUNT FOR CAC MEMBERS!

# National Patient Assistance Programs

## Area Agencies on Aging (ElderCare)

Local area agencies on aging may be able to help patients age 65 years and older who cannot afford their medicines. To contact your local area agency on aging, call 1-800-677-1116 or visit [www.eldercare.gov](http://www.eldercare.gov).

## Association of Clinicians for the Underserved (ACU)

The ACU is a non-profit organization that works to help clinicians better serve the needs of low-income patients. The ACU has developed tools and links for implementing comprehensive pharmaceutical care for low-income patients. For more information, visit [www.clinicians.org](http://www.clinicians.org).

## BenefitsCheckUp®

The National Council on Aging (NCOA) sponsors this website. It offers confidential assistance online for seniors and caregivers by searching more than 1,100 federal, state, and private prescription drug programs and determining those for which the senior may be eligible. For more information, visit [www.benefitscheckup.org](http://www.benefitscheckup.org).

## Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

HRSA offers information about community health centers that may offer prescription assistance to low-income patients. Learn more by calling [1-888-ASK-HRSA](tel:1-888-ASK-HRSA).

# National Patient Assistance Programs

## Medicare

This official Medicare website can help patients, caregivers, and doctors find information about public and private prescription drug assistance programs in their area, including eligibility requirements and covered services. For more information, visit [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov).

## My Medicare Matters

The My Medicare Matters website is designed to help individuals learn more about Medicare prescription drug coverage. The website was developed using materials from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, as well as materials developed by the National Council on Aging (NCOA), the Access to Benefits Coalition (ABC), and AstraZeneca. For more information, visit [www.mymedicarematters.org](http://www.mymedicarematters.org).

## NeedyMeds

NeedyMeds is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with the mission of helping people who can't afford to pay for their medications. The website is very comprehensive, gathering information for hundreds of medications for children and adults. For more information, visit [www.needymeds.org](http://www.needymeds.org).

# National Patient Assistance Programs

## Partnership for Prescription Assistance (PPA)

A national program that can help patients identify assistance programs. Qualifying patients who do not have prescription coverage can use the program as a single point of contact to access information about public and private programs that may be right for them. The PPA represents the largest-ever non-government-sponsored program to help bring medicines to Americans who do not have prescription drug coverage and are having difficulty affording their prescription medicines. More than 475 public and private patient assistance programs are available through the PPA. For more information, call 888-4PPA-NOW or visit [www.pparx.org](http://www.pparx.org).

## PatientAssistance.com

PatientAssistance.com is a free resource designed to help connect patients who can't afford their prescription medications with patient assistance programs. Database includes more than 1000 programs that make medication affordable for low-income families and the uninsured. This website is sponsored by several for-profit retailers including Walmart. For more information, visit [www.patientassistance.com](http://www.patientassistance.com).

# National Patient Assistance Programs

## RxAssist

RxAssist lets physicians and patients search for information on patient assistance programs by company, brand name, generic name, or type of medicine. RxAssist provides information on ways to get free and low-cost medications. The site also provides a quick-reference chart that lists drug assistance programs by state. For more information, visit [www.rxassist.org](http://www.rxassist.org).

## RxHope™

RxHope lets patients and physicians search for patient assistance information. In addition, some companies allow physicians to submit applications electronically through this site. For more information, visit [www.rxhope.com](http://www.rxhope.com).

## Rx Outreach

Rx Outreach is a program designed to help qualified people of all ages get the medicines they need. If patients qualify financially, they can receive improved access to more than 107 medicines that treat a wide range of conditions, including diabetes, asthma, heart disease, and depression. The program is available to individuals and families with incomes of up to 250% of the federal poverty level. For more information, visit [www.rxoutreach.com](http://www.rxoutreach.com).

# Pharmaceutical Companies



[www.astrazeneca.com](http://www.astrazeneca.com)



[www.merck.com](http://www.merck.com)



[www.gene.com/gene/index.jsp](http://www.gene.com/gene/index.jsp)



[www.gsk.com](http://www.gsk.com)

[www.caremanagementcentral.com](http://www.caremanagementcentral.com)

cmc access code: cmc4me

# Pharmaceutical Company Patient Assistance Programs



[www.azandme.com](http://www.azandme.com)



[www.merck.com/merckhelps](http://www.merck.com/merckhelps)



[www.genentechaccesssolutions.com/index.jsp](http://www.genentechaccesssolutions.com/index.jsp)



[www.gskforyou.com/sk.com](http://www.gskforyou.com/sk.com)

# Medication Discount Cards

## TogetherRx Access

Several major drug companies have created a joint website that allows patients to apply for a card (TogetherRx Access) that offers discounts on more than 300 medications manufactured by these companies. The cards may be used to purchase the drugs at local pharmacies. For more information, visit [www.togetherrxaccess.com](http://www.togetherrxaccess.com).

To qualify, individuals may not be eligible for Medicare or Medicaid and must have no other prescription drug coverage. Most of the companies have income limits. The amount saved on prescriptions with the discount card varies by individual programs. In addition, different pharmacies may charge different prices for the covered medications. This is because the discounts are applied to the "usual" prices that pharmacy charges and these "usual" prices vary from store to store. Generally, the free program offers savings of 25-40% and possibly more.

# Purchasing Medication on-line

## You can buy on-line for discounts

There are a number of pharmacies that offer prescription drugs by mail and you can order online. You can find some prescription drugs at lower prices by reviewing some of these options. While there is no specific discount program or card, the reduced costs of operating a website (rather than a retail store) allows pharmacies to offer lower prices on some items.

## But check out the companies...

Be wary of companies that offer drugs over the Internet from overseas locations that are not subject to the U.S Food and Drug Administration law enforcement. Look for an on-line pharmacy that is **VIPPS certified**, which means that it is sanctioned by the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP). To search the pharmacy of your choice, visit [www.nabp.net](http://www.nabp.net) and then click on *Accreditation Programs* and select *VIPPS*. Scroll down and click on the link labeled "*click to search*". The National Association of Boards of Pharmacy is the professional association that represents the state boards of pharmacy in all 50 United States. In the United States, this means that these are professional operations that follow all federal and state laws, have licensed pharmacists on-call, protect your confidentiality and follow the industry standards in storage and shipping of medicines.

# Military Pharmacy Programs

## Active Duty Military Pharmacy Program

Individuals and families who are eligible for treatment at a military treatment facility (MTF) can have prescriptions filled without charge at an MTF pharmacy. Military and dependents who take medications on a regular basis can receive medications through the **TRICARE Mail Order Pharmacy (TMOP)** program. Register should be completed at the Express Scripts website. If a medication is needed immediately, the prescription may be filled at a TRICARE retail network pharmacy, but there is a co-pay. To be eligible, individuals must be 1) Active-duty military, world-wide; and 2) A TRICARE-eligible beneficiary under age 65 (family members of active duty personnel, retirees under age 65 and their family members)

## Military Pharmacy Program (seniors, survivors and some former spouses)

Uniformed services beneficiaries aged 65 and over who are registered in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System can get low-cost prescription drugs through the TRICARE Senior Pharmacy Program. Depending on patient age, patient may be required to enroll in Medicare Part B to participate in the TRICARE pharmacy program. Patients do not have to apply to participate in TRICARE, but they will need to present their current military identification card when using the TRICARE benefit. Under TRICARE, the amount of your co-pay will vary by the medication. For more information, call 1-877-363-6337 for information about eligibility, enrollment, and benefits.

# Local Patient Assistance Programs

## **All Kids** (866) 255-5437

Illinois state program that provides comprehensive health insurance to every uninsured child at rates their parents can afford. For more information, visit [www.allkidscovered.com](http://www.allkidscovered.com).

## **Gilead Outreach & Referral Center** (312) 906-6024

Connects uninsured individuals and families throughout metropolitan Chicago with affordable healthcare programs for which they are eligible. For more information, visit [www.gileadcenter.org](http://www.gileadcenter.org).

## **Illinois Cares Rx** (800) 252-8966

The Illinois Department on Aging's Circuit Breaker program provides grants to senior citizens and persons with disabilities to help them reduce the impact of taxes and prescription medications on their lives. For more information, visit [www.state.il.us/aging/1rx/cbrx/cbrx-main.htm](http://www.state.il.us/aging/1rx/cbrx/cbrx-main.htm).

## **Rx for Illinois** (877) 793-6745

Website to help low-income, uninsured patients in Illinois get access to patient assistance programs where they may qualify for free or nearly free prescription medications. For more information, visit [www.rxforillinois.org](http://www.rxforillinois.org).

**Questions?**

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