

New Connections

HELPING YOU CARE FOR A LOVED ONE DURING TREATMENT



Issue 16



Caregiver Corner:

Advances in pharmaceuticals are amazing – and so are their price tags.

The American Cancer Society understands the growing concern over the high cost of prescription drugs. We know that even people who have insurance may not have the financial resources to cover all of the costs related to their prescription medicines. That's why we're committed to helping people find ways to reduce their costs.

Fortunately, there are many public and private resources available to help people. Some of these programs provide options for purchasing drugs at discounted prices. Others help patients who can't afford any part of their medication costs. Through extensive interviews with pharmacists, drug companies and associations, and research on the Internet, we've compiled the following list of programs:

The Partnership for Prescription Assistance

Web site: <http://www.pparx.com>

Phone: 1-888-477-2669

The Partnership for Prescription Assistance program is a group of drug companies, doctors, health care providers, and organizations helping patients without prescription coverage find drug assistance programs that are right for them. The partnership's Web site offers access to more than 475 public and private drug and nutritional supplement assistance programs, including more than 150 programs offered by drug companies.

To find programs right for you, fill out the confidential online form. After your answers are quickly compared to the requirements for the different programs, you will be able to see a list of programs that may be helpful to you. From here, you can download each program's application and instructions for applying.

Your doctor or nurse can also use the Web site to find programs for you and then complete the necessary application forms for you and send them by email or fax.

NeedyMeds

Web site: <http://www.needymeds.com>

Phone: 1-215-625-9609

The NeedyMeds Web site provides information on nearly 800 drug assistance programs, including requirements and application forms. It includes some of the same programs as the Partnership for Prescription Assistance, but in a format that might be easier for some patients to use. NeedyMeds is an

information clearinghouse and does not help with specific problems or provide individual searches for drug assistance programs.

BenefitsCheckUpRx

Web site: <http://www.benefitscheckup.org>

Provided by the National Council on the Aging, BenefitsCheckUpRx is an online resource for individuals age 55 and older who have difficulty paying for their medicines. This resource includes more than 1,500 programs for all 50 states and the District of Columbia. By answering questions about your location, income, and medications, this service can find drug assistance programs that are available to you. The Web site also includes another questionnaire that searches for programs to help with rent, property taxes, meals, and other needs.

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

Web site: <http://www.medicare.gov>

Phone: 1-800-633-4227 or 1-888-MEDICARE

The federal government's Centers for Medicare and Medicaid services' Web site identifies available drug assistance programs and can help you pick the right Medicare-approved prescription drug plan (Part D) based on location, income, and the medicines you take.

Medicare Access for Patients-Rx

Web site: <http://www.maprx.info>

Medicare Access for Patients-Rx (MAPRx) links you to information about the Medicare Part D drug program. It provides answers to frequently asked questions about the Medicare prescription drug program, and it has a state-by-state listing of other possible resources and programs.

Together RX Access Card

Web site: <http://www.together-rxaccess.com>

Phone: 1-800-444-4106

The Together Rx access card has been created to help individuals and families save on brand-name prescription drugs, other prescription products, and a wide range of generic drugs. To be eligible, you must be ineligible for Medicare, not have drug coverage, and have a limited income.

HealthWell Foundation

Web site: <http://www.healthwellfoundation.org>

Phone: 1-800-675-8416

HealthWell Foundation is a nonprofit, charitable organization that helps qualified individuals who do not have the ability to pay for prescription drugs, insurance premiums and co-payments, and other out-of-pocket health care costs. The program serves only those with certain health conditions, which are posted on the Web site. Only certain cancers are included in their coverage.

Patient Advocate Foundation's Co-Pay Relief Assistance Program

Web site: <http://www.copays.org>

Phone: 1-866-512-3861

The Patient Advocate Foundation's Co-Pay Relief Assistance Program helps patients who meet certain requirements pay for the prescriptions and treatments they need. This program is available only to individuals with certain medical conditions who also have insurance (including Medicare or Medicaid). Only certain cancers are included in this program.

Patient Services Incorporated

Web site: <http://www.uneedpsi.org>

Phone: 1-800-366-7741

Patient Services Incorporated is a national nonprofit organization that helps patients with certain expensive chronic illnesses and their families with health insurance premiums and medicine co-payments in order to help improve their quality of life. Families requiring help with the high cost of their health insurance premiums or co-payments are offered help based upon the severity of medical and financial need. They also help patients locate and purchase health insurance coverage. Only a few cancers are included in this program.

Patient Access Network Foundation

Web site: <http://www.patientaccessnetwork.org>

Phone: 1-866-316-7263

Patient Access Network Foundation is a nonprofit organization helping underinsured patients who cannot afford the out-of-pocket costs for their treatment. The program assists patients with certain medical conditions who meet specific financial, insurance, and medical requirements (for instance, the drugs must be covered by the patient's insurance). Only certain cancers are included in this program.

Linking ARMS: Assistance and Resources Made Simple

Web site: <http://www.cancer.org>

Phone: 1-800-813-4673

Provided by CancerCare, Linking ARMS provides grants of up to \$300 a year to low-income, under-, and uninsured women with breast cancer to assist with the costs of certain oral medicines for breast cancer treatment, pain, and nausea; of lymphedema support and supplies; and of durable medical equipment prescribed by a doctor.

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For more cancer information, call 1-800-ACS-2345
or visit www.cancer.org, anytime, day or night.

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National Home Office, 1599 Clifton Road NE, Atlanta, Georgia 30329