

Help With Your Prescription Medicine

Many pharmaceutical companies have Patient Assistance Programs that provide free or low-cost prescription medicine to individuals who are low-income, uninsured and/or under-insured. In order to participate in such programs, you need to find out whether the pharmaceutical company that manufactures your medicine has a Patient Assistance Program(s), the eligibility requirements to participate in the program(s), as well as the process for applying for your medication(s). In other words, you will need to apply directly to the drug manufacturer(s). The majority of Patient Assistance Programs require that your doctor sign off on your application and be willing to distribute the medication to you.

Information on Patient Assistance Programs is widely available on the Internet. We have compiled a list of reliable websites that are free and provide accurate and updated information on many of the Patient Assistance Programs currently available for name-brand and generic drugs. Beware of any online program/organization that will charge you a subscription fee (i.e., membership fee) to obtain Patient Assistance Program information or application forms.

Before you start your online search, you must know the exact name(s) of the prescription drug(s) you are taking in order to learn more about a pharmaceutical company's Patient Assistance Program description and eligibility requirements.

Partnership for Prescription Assistance

Phone Number: (888) 477- 2669

Website: <https://www.pparx.org/Intro.php>

This program helps qualifying patients without prescription drug coverage get the medicines they need through various pharmaceutical assistance programs. Those who qualify may get their medications at reduced cost or free.

Needy Meds

Website: www.needymeds.org

The Needy Meds website provides updated information on name-brand and generic medicines that you can obtain for free or at a low cost through various Patient Assistance Programs. You can also search this website for prescription drug coupons that you can redeem at local pharmacies.

Access2wellness

Website: www.access2wellness.com/a2w/index.html

Access2wellness is an online resource designed to assist people with limited or no health insurance get the help they need to lead healthier lives. This website helps you learn about a variety of assistance programs that provide medicines and medical products for free or at a discount to qualified individuals. It also features a unique eligibility tool so that consumers can quickly and easily determine which assistance program is the best potential match for them. Website information is also available in Spanish.

Lilly Cares Program

Phone: (800) 545-6962

Website: <http://www.lillycares.com/index.jsp>

Eli Lilly and Company, a pharmaceutical company, also has a Prescription Assistance Program that offers free medications to uninsured low-income individuals across the country. To learn more about this Patient Assistance Program, you can go online and check whether your medications are available. If they are not covered through this program, the website also links into the Partnership for Prescription Assistance, a website of various Prescription Assistance Programs administered by different pharmaceutical companies.

Other Issues

What if the prescription medicine you need is not covered?

If the prescription medicine(s) you need is not covered under any of the Patient Assistant Program listed above, it means that currently there is no program that covers your specific medication. However, you can find out the name of the company that manufactures the medicine you need to call and ask whether a program has become available that includes your medication. On rare occasions, some companies will make an exception.

Suggestions when dealing with a doctor who does not want or have the time to complete the forms you need to participate in the Patient Assistance Program.

- Make sure you fill out as much of the form as you can and all the material(s) that the patient is responsible for completing.
- Read over the doctor's portion and see if there is any information that the doctor will need from you and be sure to have this information ready.
- Try to befriend a sympathetic staff member. Sometimes the staff is able to get the doctor to complete and sign the form(s) you need.
- Be sure that your doctor knows that you may not be able to take your medicine because you can't afford to buy it.
- Let the doctor know you understand how busy he/she is and that you appreciate the time it takes to complete the forms.
- As a last resort, you may have to find another doctor who will be more helpful.

Cash Assistance for Prescription Drugs

If you need to fill a prescription immediately, cash assistance is available on a limited basis through social service agencies or churches in town including Family Service (217) 352-6300 and Empty Tomb (217) 352-2262.

We hope this information is helpful. Please call the Consumer Health Hotline at (217) 352-6533, Ext. 19 if you have any questions about the programs or if you need help filling out the applications.

This information was compiled by:
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