

PRESCRIPTION DRUG INFORMATION FOR LOW INCOME RECIPIENTS

BY: SANDY WRIGHT, BUREAU ON AGING

FREE OR REDUCED COST PRESCRIPTION DRUG ASSISTANCE:

The U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging recently released a report describing the program of U.S. drug manufacturers to provide free prescription drugs for low income patients who cannot afford them.

This little-known program is called the "Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Indigent Patient Program." Each year, the Pharmaceutical Manufacturer Association (PMA) publishes a directory that lists programs established by individual drug companies, to provide free drugs. Each company establishes its own eligibility rules and decides which of the drugs it produces will be included in the program.

Medications are obtained on a case-by-case basis. Typically, the physician simply must state in writing that the patient needs the drug, has no way of paying for the drug, and is poor. Then the company will send the drug in question (typically a 3-month supply) to the physician to give to the eligible patient. Physicians may reapply on behalf of a patient for further prescriptions.

If you or someone you know might benefit from this program ask your doctor to contact the drug company in question and see if the drug can be obtained for free. For example, the Merck Company which sells Clinoril, Aldomet, and Timoptic, among other drugs, will provide these (and other) medications under the following conditions:

The patient's doctor sends a written statement verifying the patient needs this drug and paying for it is a financial hardship. Also, the patient is not eligible for prescription drug coverage from private insurance or any government assistance programs. The physician will then usually receive a three-month supply of the drug on behalf of the qualifying patient. Often, the physician must repeat this process every three months.

Copies of the full directory of participating companies may be obtained by writing to:

Pharmaceutical Manufacturer's Association
1100 15th Street NW
Washington, DC 20005

Other resources include your local public library (for internet access), the Elderly Benefit Specialist Program in your county, and these websites:

Needy Meds	www.needymeds.com
The Medicine Program	www.themedicineprogram.com
Rx Assistance	www.RxAssist.org
State of WI Prescription Drug Resource Center	http://drugsavings.wi.gov

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STATE OF WISCONSIN
BOARD ON AGING AND LONG TERM CARE
MADISON, WISCONSIN TOLL-FREE (800) 242-1060
ADVOCATE FOR THE LONG TERM CARE CONSUMER

PRESCRIPTION DRUG RESOURCES

DISCOUNT PROGRAM	TOLL-FREE PHONE	INCOME LIMITS	DISCOUNTS (OR) DEDUCTIBLES	MEDICATION COST
Badger Rx Gold Card	(866) 809-9382	None, must be Wisconsin resident	25-40% discount	
Coalition of WI Aging Groups	(800) 366-2990	None, but must be current, dues-paying CWAG member (\$15 per year)	Varies	
Eli Lilly Company (Lilly Cares)	(800) 545-6962			
Eli Lilly Company (Lilly Medicare Answers)	(877) 795-4559			\$25 per one month supply
GlaxoSmithKline (Bridges To Access)	(866) 728-4368			\$10 co-pay first 60-day supply, then free
Merck Prescription Discount Program	(800) 506-3725	None	15-40% discount	
Partnership For Prescription Assistance	(800) 481-0229			
Pfizer Pfriends (Helpful Answers)	(866) 906-2800			
Schering Plough (SP-Cares)	(800) 656-9485			If qualified, medications are free
Together Rx Access	(800) 444-4106		25-40% discount	

Companies/Organizations can be contacted direct to request an application. If you have further questions, feel free to contact the **Medigap Helpline, at 1-800-242-1060 (in Madison, call 246-7017, or email us at BOALTC@Wisconsin.Gov)**

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