

# **PRESCRIPTION ASSISTANCE**

## **MEDICARE PART D**

Medicare Part D, is an insurance program for prescription drug coverage, available to everyone with Medicare regardless of age, income or resources. Part D covers both generic and brand name drugs. Like other insurance, you pay a monthly premium, a yearly deductible not to exceed \$320 in 2012 and part of the cost of your prescriptions. Those costs vary from plan to plan and may be affected by other assistance you qualify for.



Enrollment is voluntary but should be seriously considered. There is a 1% per month penalty added to the premium if enrollment is delayed beyond initial eligibility. Those individuals with coverage through other resources such as the VA or private pension plans are exempt from this penalty while they continue to carry acceptable coverage. Though many older adults may not be taking any regular prescription medication upon enrolling in Medicare that is likely to change with age.

Part D Plans can change each year and vary from state to state. Plans may have different formularies or lists of drugs that they include in their plan and different costs associated with them. Annual Coordinated Election Periods are scheduled in late fall each year allowing enrollees to change plans. Individuals should review their coverage regularly to insure they have the best plan for their personal needs. For help with this, visit **[www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov)** or call **DuPage County Senior Services, (630) 407-6500** or **1-800-942-9412**.

Those individuals with limited income and assets may apply for **Extra Help**. To qualify for **Extra Help** from the Social Security Administration in 2012, assets are limited to \$13,070 for an individual and \$26,120 for a married couple living together. The annual income limits are \$16,755 and \$22,695 respectively. **Extra Help** may eliminate monthly premiums or deductibles and reduce co-payments. For more information or to apply on line, go to **[www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov)**.

## **OTHER GOVERNMENT PRESCRIPTION ASSISTANCE**

### **DuPage County Prescription Drug Card**

Prescription discount cards are available to all county residents thanks to a contract between DuPage County/National Association of Counties and **Caremark**. The **Prescription Drug Card** is free, provides an average of 20% off a pharmacy's regular retail prices and is accepted at 57,000 retail pharmacies nationwide. Some pet medications that can be filled at a regular pharmacy may be covered. **Caremark Mail Service Program** is also available for up to a 90-day supply of select medications. For more information visit the **Caremark** website at [www.naco.advancerx.com](http://www.naco.advancerx.com), phone toll free **1-877-321-2652**, or call **DuPage County Senior Services** for locations where these discount cards are available at **(630) 407-6500**, or **1-800-942-9412**.

### **Illinois Department of Human Services/Medicaid**

Offers assistance for medical care and prescription drugs to low income residents. See Page 36 for more details.

### **Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH)**

Through the **AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP)**, IDPH provides assistance to persons who are HIV positive and not eligible for Medicaid. For more information on ADAP contact **IDPH** at **1-800-825-3518** or [www.idph.state.il.us](http://www.idph.state.il.us).

### **Illinois Rx Buying Club**

Provides, on average, 20% discount (individual discounts vary) on both generic and brand name drugs from a Preferred Drug List. To qualify you must be an Illinois resident with household income of 300% of poverty or less. This discount card is accepted at more than 50,000 pharmacies and a mail order option for everyday medications is available also. Individuals approved for Circuit Breaker and not eligible for Medicare Part D are automatically enrolled. There is a \$10 non-refundable annual administrative fee. To apply, call **1-866-215-3462**, **1-800-289-1089 (TTY)**, or download an application at [www.illinoisrxbuyingclub.com](http://www.illinoisrxbuyingclub.com).

## Illinois RX Card

As a resident of Illinois, you and your family have access to a statewide Prescription Assistance Program (PAP). Create and print your *FREE* discount prescription drug card online. No enrollment forms, age or income requirements! The Discount Prescription Card is pre-activated and accepted at over 56,000 pharmacies around the country including most major chains. View details at [www.illinoisrxcard.com](http://www.illinoisrxcard.com).

## VA Pharmacy Benefits

Veterans may receive their prescription drugs from a VA facility at a reduced rate, or in some cases free of charge. Veterans should inquire with their local Veterans Affairs office or nearest VA facility. For the nearest location call **1-800-827-1000** or visit [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov).

## **PRIVATE AND CHARITABLE PRESCRIPTION ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS**



### **AARP Pharmacy Service/Walgreen's Health Initiative**

P.O. Box 1087  
Bensalem, Pennsylvania 19020-9956  
**1-800-289-8849**  
[www.aarppharmacy.com](http://www.aarppharmacy.com)

Provides members of the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) with quality prescription and non-prescription medications and other health care products in a convenient, low-cost manner and enhances the value of services through education and information about medication and other health matters.

### **CanUSAMeds.com/Canadian Prescriptions online or by mail**

3108 S. Route 59, Suite 124-287  
Naperville, IL 60564  
**(630) 904-3677**  
**1-877-469-9619**

No membership, enrollment, or sign-up fees required. A Canadian doctor reviews your "chart" and approves your prescription under his/her Canadian license. Company also has U.S. Pharmacy options for Medicare "D" clients.

**Caring Voice Coalition**  
**1-888-267-1440**  
**[www.caringvoice.org](http://www.caringvoice.org)**

Patients diagnosed with chronic conditions can apply for grants that can assist with copayments for expensive prescription therapy, helping pay the premium for health insurance coverage or various other self-pay responsibilities related to prescription therapy. These grants may be applied for online or by calling. Grants are usually processed within 24 to 48 hours.

**HealthWell Foundation**  
**1-800-675-8416**  
**[www.healthwellfoundation.org](http://www.healthwellfoundation.org)**

Provides financial assistance to eligible individuals to cover coinsurance, copayments, healthcare premiums and deductibles for certain treatments. To qualify for assistance from HealthWell, patients must have some form of health insurance (major medical or prescription drug) that covers part of the cost of their treatment.

**National Organization for Rare Disorders, Inc. (NORD)**  
**(203) 744-0100**  
**1-800-999-6673 (voicemail only)**  
**[www.rarediseases.org](http://www.rarediseases.org)**

A patient assistance program to help uninsured or underinsured individuals obtain lifesaving/life sustaining drugs. NORD also administers early access programs to investigational new drugs, approved by the FDA, prior to the drug's marketing. All of NORD's programs are subject to eligibility requirements.

**Needy Meds**  
**[www.needymeds.org](http://www.needymeds.org)**

Provides information about patient assistance programs providing no cost prescription medications to eligible participants.

**Patient Advocate Foundation/Copay Relief**  
**1-866-512-3861**  
**[www.copays.org](http://www.copays.org)**

Provides direct financial support for prescription copayments to insured patients, including Medicare Part D beneficiaries, who financially qualify and have a condition that is covered on the list online.

## **Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America Program (PhRMA)**

950 F Street NW, Suite 300

Washington D.C. 20004

**1-800-762-4636**

**www.pparx.org**

PhRMA's Partnership for Prescription Assistance (PPA) is a national program committed to helping eligible individuals access prescription medicines that they might not otherwise afford. PPA brings together America's pharmaceutical companies, doctors and other healthcare providers, advocacy organizations and community groups to help qualifying patients without prescription coverage get the medicines they need through public or private programs. Medications are provided free or nearly free. PPA's mission is to increase awareness of patient assistance programs and boost enrollment of those who are eligible.

For further information on these or other prescription assistance programs call **DuPage County Senior Services** at **(630) 407-6500** or **1-800-942-9412** or **Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP)** at **1-800-548-9034**.

