

Greenwich Hospital

Prescription Drug Assistance Information

PATIENT/FAMILY INFORMATION SHEET

What information will this handout provide regarding prescription coverage?

The soaring cost of prescription medications has affected most people who require maintenance drug therapy. Those individuals who live on fixed incomes and do not have prescription coverage are particularly affected by the rising costs. This handout is intended as a guide for those who need information on ways to help pay for their prescription drugs. Greenwich Hospital does not endorse any of the listed programs.

When researching different programs, consider the following points:

- **Speak with your doctor and/or pharmacist before choosing a prescription drug plan.** They may be able to recommend a program that best fits your needs depending upon the medications you are taking.
- **You may be able to substitute brand name medications with less expensive generic medications.** Check with your doctor when receiving a new prescription to determine if the generic form would be suitable for you.
- **Consider whether the plan covers regular pharmacies and/or mail order programs.** Pharmacies are necessary for short-term and/or acute care prescriptions that are needed right away. For long-term or maintenance drugs, mail order programs may provide you with greater cost savings. Some prescription plans offer both of these options and some do not.
- **Shop around for best prices.** If you are paying out-of-pocket for your prescription medications, shop for pharmacies that offer the best prices.
- **Drug companies sponsor special programs for people who cannot afford the cost of their brand name prescription drugs.** You may be eligible to receive medications free-of-charge or at a very low cost depending upon your income level and health condition.

NeedyMeds is an internet-based resource that contains information on over 300 pharmaceutical drug company programs. These programs provide medicine at no cost or low cost to those who qualify. The web address is www.needymeds.com. For those who do not have or use a computer, access may be available from family, friends, your local public library, and/or a local community group such as a senior center.

- **There are also disease-specific programs that help people with certain long-term illnesses/conditions to obtain prescription medications.**

The following charts offer information based on disease-specific programs, discount prescription card programs, and general consumer assistance programs. For more information, you may also ask to speak with one of the Greenwich Hospital case managers regarding prescription drug coverage programs before your hospital discharge.

Disease-Specific Programs

Foundation/Program	Disease(s)	Contact Information
Alzheimer's Family Relief Program	Alzheimer's Disease	800-437-2423 301-948-3244
Cancer Care/Linking ARMS	Breast Cancer	800-813-4673 212-712-8080
Cancer Care/Hirshberg Foundation	Pancreatic Cancer	800-813-4673 212-712-8080
Patient Advocate Foundation/ Co-Pay Relief	Breast, lung, prostate cancer; Macular Degeneration; chemotherapy induced anemia and neutropenia	866-512-3861
Patient Services Inc.	Acromegaly disorder, chronic renal insufficiency, Crohn's disease, chemotherapy induced anemia and neutropenia	800-366-7741
American Kidney Foundation	End stage renal disease	800-638-8299
Leukemia and Lymphoma Society	Hodgkin's lymphoma, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, leukemia, multiple myeloma	914-949-5213
Nielsen Organ Transplant Foundation	Organ transplant	904-244-9823
Patient Access Network Foundation	Macular degeneration, anemia, chemotherapy induced nausea and vomiting, cutaneous T-cell lymphoma, oncology cytoprotection, RSV, rheumatoid arthritis	800-316-7263
Healthwell Foundation	Psoriatic and rheumatoid arthritis, anemia with chronic renal insufficiency, hyperparathyroidism, chemotherapy induced anemia and neutropenia	800-675-8416

Source: NeedyMeds @ www.needymeds.com

State Sponsored Assistance Programs

Program Name	Facts	Contact Information
<i>State Sponsored Programs: Connecticut</i>		
Connecticut CADAP	Program to help residents living with HIV+ or AIDS to get medication free of cost	800-233-2503 www.dss.state.ct.us
Connecticut HUSKY Plan A	For children under age of 19 who are Connecticut residents and meet financial eligibility requirements	877-284-8759 www.huskyhealth.com
Connecticut HUSKY Plan B	For children under age of 19 who are Connecticut residents and meet financial eligibility requirements	877-284-8759 www.huskyhealth.com
Connecticut HUSKY Plus	For children under age of 19 who are Connecticut residents and meet financial eligibility requirements	877-284-8759 www.huskyhealth.com
Connecticut Insurance Assistance Program for AIDS Patients	For residents of Connecticut with AIDS who are no longer able to work	800-842-1508 www.dss.state.ct.us
ConnPACE	For senior citizens and people with disabilities in Connecticut who do not have prescription insurance coverage	800-423-5026 www.connpace.com
<i>State Sponsored Programs: New York</i>		
Child Health Plus	For children under age of 19 who are New York residents and meet financial eligibility requirements.	800-698-4543 www.helath.state.ny.us
EPIC	For senior citizens who are New York residents and meet financial eligibility requirements	800-332-3742 www.health.state.ny.us
Family Health Plus	For adults ages 19-64 who are residents of New York and have no other prescription insurance coverage	877-9FH-PLUS www.health.state.ny.us
New York ADAP	For New York residents living with HIV/AIDS and who meet the financial eligibility requirements	800-542-237 www.helath.state.ny.us

Source: NeedyMeds @ www.needymeds.com

Other Assistance Programs

Program Name	Facts	Contact Information
NeedyMeds	Web site with up-to-date information on various patient assistance programs, including a list of drug companies with prescription coverage programs.	www.needymeds.com
Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA)	Directory of prescription drug patient assistance programs that lists drug companies who provide drugs to physicians whose patients cannot otherwise afford them. Also includes how to make requests for assistance.	www.phrma.org 888-477-2669 1100 Fifteenth St., NW Washington, DC 20005
The Medicine Program	Assists people in applying for one or more of the many patient assistance programs available. If you are approved and enrolled in the program, the medications are sent to your doctor and he dispenses them to you.	www.themedicineprogram.com 573-778-0333

Source: Choices. (October 2004). Prescription drug assistance for Medicare beneficiaries living in Connecticut. Hartford, CT: DSS.

For more Patient Fact Sheets, see the Greenwich Hospital web site at www.greenhosp.org and Click on Patients & Visitors, then Patient Education