



# Reference Guide to Saving Money on Prescriptions

*Revised: April 2008*

Prescription medications can be a heavy financial burden for individuals and families. Many people feel limited to receiving assistance from the well – known Medicare and Medicaid programs; however, there are other options that might be of assistance.

This Reference Guide is intended for use by patients, caregivers, health and social service providers, and others seeking to reduce out-of-pocket costs for medications. While certainly not an all-inclusive list, the Guide does offer a range of options, some for specific diseases or companies, some with more comprehensive information on many governmental and private programs, and some offering a discount on a broad array of products. The Guide will be updated from time to time, and is also posted on the Rice County website at [www.co.rice.mn.us](http://www.co.rice.mn.us).

This publication is a cooperative effort of the HealthFinders Collaborative and the Rice County Public Health Nursing Service and is based on work initially done by Lindsay Hench and Maggie Roscher.

## DISCOUNT CARDS AND PROGRAM DATABASES

PROGRAM	PRESCRIPTIONS COVERED	GUIDELINES	BENEFIT	CONTACT AND INFO.
National Association of Counties (NACo) Prescription Discount Card Program	Over 57,000 participating pharmacies—all commonly prescribed medications	No age or income limits. Cannot use if prescription is covered by insurance. Free cards for Rice County residents. No enrollment process.	Average of 20% savings. Family coverage.	<a href="https://naco.advancerx.com">https://naco.advancerx.com</a> 1-877-321-2652 Discount cards available at locations throughout Rice County; go to <a href="http://www.co.rice.mn.us">www.co.rice.mn.us</a> or call (507) 332-6111 for more information.
RxHope	This site offers a way to research government and private patient assistance programs for over 1,000 medications.	Varies by program.	Varies by program	<a href="http://www.rxhope.com">www.rxhope.com</a>
Needy Meds	A useful resource with access to a wide variety of medications from multiple companies	Varies by program. This site has links to public and private programs, discount cards, and programs for specific diseases.	Varies by program, but many medications are available free of charge to qualified enrollees.	For information and enrollment forms online, go to <a href="http://www.needymeds.com">www.needymeds.com</a> or send an e-mail to <a href="mailto:info@needymeds.com">info@needymeds.com</a> . Fax number is 419-858-7221.
Partnership for Prescription Assistance, Minnesota  PPARx MN	PPARxMN offers a single point of access to multiple patient assistance programs, including more than 150 programs offered by pharmaceutical companies.	PPARxMN helps low-income, uninsured or under-insured patients. Some Medicare and Medicaid situations might qualify.	Prescriptions can be either free or discounted, depending on the program.	For more information, visit <a href="http://pparxmn.org">http://pparxmn.org</a> , send an e-mail from that site, or call 1-888-477-2669.
The Medicine Program	This program offers a discount card good at over 48,000 participating pharmacies and covering a variety of medications.	There are no eligibility criteria for the discount card. Persons likely to benefit most are those who are uninsured or under-insured for prescribed medications.	Easy-to-use; print card directly from the website and bring to a participating pharmacy.	For more information or to print a discount card, visit online at <a href="http://www.themedicineprogram.com">www.themedicineprogram.com</a>  Alternatively, call 1-866-694-3893.

## DISCOUNT CARDS AND PROGRAM DATABASES (continued)

PROGRAM	PRESCRIPTIONS COVERED	GUIDELINES	BENEFIT	CONTACT AND INFO.
Together Rx Access	Over 300 brand name prescription medicines and other prescription products; also savings on generic medications.	Not eligible for Medicare; not covered by public or private prescription drug insurance; legal US resident; income at or below \$30,000 for a single person and \$60,000 for a family of four (eligibility adjusted for family size)	Savings vary depending upon pharmacy pricing and the savings programs offered by participating pharmaceutical companies. Overall, savings are in the range of 25% to 40%.	For more information call 1-800-444-4106 or go to the website <a href="http://www.TogetherRxAccess.com">www.TogetherRxAccess.com</a>

## PROGRAMS FOR SPECIFIC DISEASES OR CONDITIONS

PROGRAM	PRESCRIPTIONS COVERED	GUIDELINES	BENEFIT	CONTACT AND INFO.
GlaxoSmithKline Commitment to Access Program	Oncology products used in out-patient settings in the US.	This program is for low/moderate income patients residing in the US and with out prescription drug coverage; some coverage for Medicare Part D enrollees	Oncology medications; <u>examples</u> are Bexxar, Leukeran, and Myleran. See the website for a complete list.	Call 1-888-825-5249 (general questions) or go online to <a href="http://www.commitmenttoaccess.gsk.com">www.commitmenttoaccess.gsk.com</a>
National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD)	Prescriptions needed for various rare “orphan “ diseases	Medication programs are for persons who are uninsured or under-insured.	Assistance varies with different disorders and medications.	For information, visit the website at <a href="http://www.rarediseases.org/programs/medication">www.rarediseases.org/programs/medication</a> call (203)744-0100 or 1-800-999-6673 or e-mail at orphan@rarediseases.org
Minnesota AIDS Project (MAP)	Provides links to resources for HIV/AIDS related prescription drugs.	Varies by program.	Assistance in obtaining prescription medications, health insurance, dental insurance, depending upon the program.	1-800-248-AIDS (statewide), online at <a href="http://www.mnaidsproject.org">www.mnaidsproject.org</a> , or e-mail to info@mnaidsproject.org
Access Project	Medications available for HIV and AIDS through Medicaid, AIDS Drug Assistance Programs (ADAPs), and pharmaceutical companies.	This is a clearinghouse for many programs with varying guidelines for participation.	Varies by program.	<a href="http://www.aegis.com/factshts/network/access/index.html">www.aegis.com/factshts/network/access/index.html</a>  In Minnesota, call 1-800-657-3761 or e-mail <a href="mailto:dave.rompa@state.mn.us">dave.rompa@state.mn.us</a>
Asthma Medications for Indigent Patients	Many different asthma related medications.	Guidelines differ by medication and manufacturer.	Aid and some complete coverage of asthma related medications.	To search for a specific medication, refer to the following website:  <a href="http://www.ashp.org/homecare/asthma-resource.cfm">http://www.ashp.org/homecare/asthma-resource.cfm</a> (This site has not been updated recently, so users might have to search other data bases as well.)

## PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANY PROGRAMS

PROGRAM	PRESCRIPTIONS COVERED	GUIDELINES	BENEFIT	CONTACT AND INFO.
GlaxoSmithKline Bridges to Access Program	Non-oncology products used in out-patient settings in the US	Patient must be US resident, meet income guidelines, and not have public or private prescription drug benefits.	Program provides access to GSK prescription medications and information about other programs for which patients might be eligible.	Visit <a href="http://www.bridgestoaccess.com">www.bridgestoaccess.com</a> or call 1-888-825-5249 (general questions)
Bristol-Myers Squibb Patient Assistance Foundation, Inc.	Many Bristol-Myers Squibb pharmaceutical products	Meet financial guidelines and without coverage for requested medications. Application requests Social Security number and citizenship status.	Offers aid or complete coverage of medications.	Information and application online at <a href="http://www.bmspaf.org">www.bmspaf.org</a> or call 1-800-736-0003
Novartis Patient Assistance Program	Select Novartis products	Enrollees must be a US resident, meet income guidelines, and not have prescription drug coverage	Up to one year of covered medications, with new prescription submitted every 90 days	1-800-277-2254 or visit online at <a href="http://www.pharma.us.novartis.com">www.pharma.us.novartis.com</a>
Pfizer Patient Assistance Programs such as Connection to Care and Pfizer Friends	Many Pfizer prescription medications, including those most widely prescribed.	Pfizer has a number of programs, some with income guidelines. All require no public or private prescription drug coverage for the medication requested	Savings depend on the drug and the program. Many products through Connection to Care are free through provider, with a 3-4 week wait for a 3 month supply.	Call 1-866-776-3700 or visit <a href="http://www.pfizerhelpfulanswers.com">www.pfizerhelpfulanswers.com</a> for more information.
Bayer Corporation	Most Bayer prescription medications.	Patient must meet income guidelines and be without applicable prescription coverage. Patient and physician complete and sign parts of the application. Must be US citizen or legal US resident.	Offers aid or complete coverage for medications.	For information, call 1-888-842-2937

## GOVERNMENT SPONSORED PROGRAMS

PROGRAM	PRESCRIPTIONS COVERED	GUIDELINES	BENEFIT	CONTACT AND INFO.
U.S. Veterans Administration	All medications on this program's official list	Must be honorably discharged and meet income and asset criteria.	\$8.00 co-pay per prescription	For more information, contact the Rice County Veterans Service Office at (507) 332-6117
Tricare programs for active duty and retired service members and their families	Medications on the program's official list (formulary)	Must be registered in the DEERS (Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System) to receive benefits	There are several Tricare options. Benefits vary by program	For more information, call 1-800-538-9552 or visit online at <a href="http://www.tricare.osd.mil/pharmacy">www.tricare.osd.mil/pharmacy</a>
GAMC (General Assistance Medical Care)	Various Prescriptions	Must be 21-64 years of age with no dependent children under 18 years of age. Must live in MN for at least 30 days. Must be ineligible for other medical assistance. Must be a US citizen or non-citizen lawfully residing in the US. Must meet income guidelines.	Persons enrolling for comprehensive coverage receive doctor visits, hospitalization, prescriptions, eye exams, eye glasses, dental care, and more.  See website for details.	To apply, visit the Minnesota Department of Human Services website at <a href="http://www.dhs.state.mn.us">www.dhs.state.mn.us</a> for an online application (start by clicking on Health Care at the top of the page); call 1-800-657-3739; or call Rice County Social Services at (507)332-6115.
MinnesotaCare	Prescription medications are a covered benefit.	Must be a resident of MN and a US citizen or non-citizen lawfully living in the US.  Cannot have had health insurance for the last four months, or be able to get health insurance through an employer who offers to pay at least half of the monthly cost. Meet income guidelines.	Examples of covered services include doctor visits, prescriptions, hospitalization, eye exams, eye glasses, and dental care.  See the website for details.	To apply, visit the Minnesota Department of Human Services website at <a href="http://www.dhs.state.mn.us">www.dhs.state.mn.us</a> for an online application (start by clicking on Health Care at the top of the page); or call 1-800-657-3672.