

Part D prescription drug cost-saving checklist

If clients are having trouble affording the costs associated with their Part D prescription drugs, they can consider the following options to reduce costs:

- ✓ **Run a cost comparison on the Medicare PlanFinder.**
- ✓ **Apply for Extra Help.** They may qualify if they have limited income and assets.
- ✓ **Ask their pharmacist.** They may be able to save money by filling three months at a time instead of one.
- ✓ **Talk to their doctor about generic drugs.** Generic drugs are often less expensive than brand-name drugs. Encourage them to ask their doctor if a generic drug could work for them.
- ✓ **Ask their doctor about samples.** This is only a temporary solution though, as their doctor likely cannot provide samples for the long term.
- ✓ **Appeal for a formulary exception or a tiering exception.** If their drug is not covered or covered on a high-cost sharing tier, they can appeal to their plan. They can ask their doctor for help with the appeal.
- ✓ **Check for any Patient Assistance Programs they might qualify for.** Some drug manufacturers offer these programs. Their doctor might have to apply for them, and eligibility varies based on the program.
- ✓ **Look for charity programs that help pay drug costs.**
- ✓ **See a safety net provider.** Pharmacies in certain government-funded hospitals and community health centers may provide medications at lower costs, depending on their circumstances. They can call the hospital or health center directly to learn more.
- ✓ **Ask their pharmacist to waive your copay.** Their pharmacist might be able to waive copays on a case-by case basis.
- ✓ **Ask their hospital pharmacy about charity care.** Some hospitals can adjust drug copays based on income.

*Source: Adapted from June 2018 Medicare Minutes,
www.shiptacenter.org.*