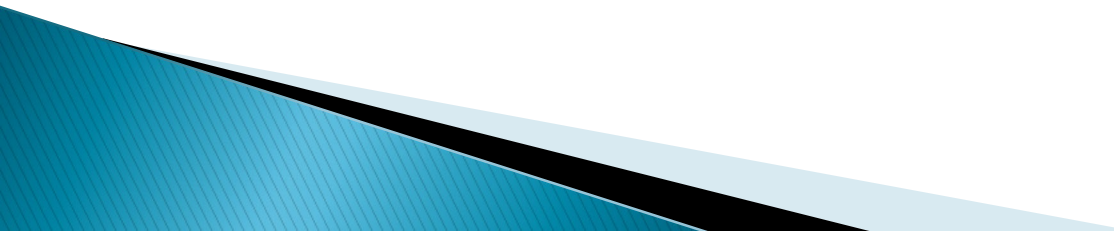


Prescription Assistance Programs and Help with Medicare and Medicare Drug Costs

Getting the medications you need –
And saving a couple of bucks in the process.

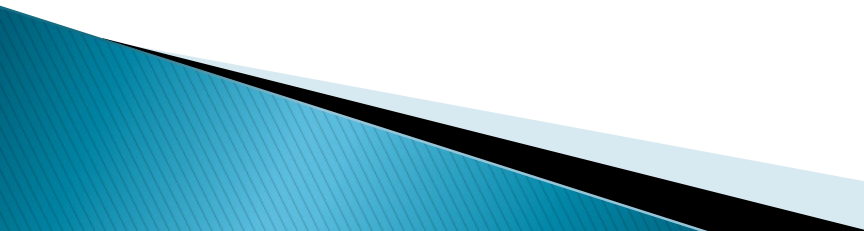
What is a Patient Assistance Program?

- ▶ Set up by Pharmaceutical Manufacturers.
 - ▶ Often referred to as a PAP.
 - ▶ Are designed to assist low–moderate income uninsured.
 - ▶ Many have provisions for Medicare Part D.
 - ▶ Normally provide branded medications for which there is not a generic.
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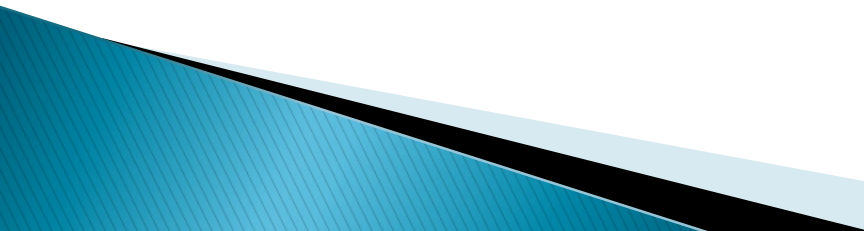
How do I find a program?

- ▶ There are many directories of programs.
 - www.needymeds.org
 - www.rxassist.org
 - www.medicineassistancetool.org
 - www.rxhope.com

How do I get my meds from a PAP?

- ▶ There are over 400 programs.
 - ▶ Most are good for 1 year or until 12/31 for Medicare Pt D patients
 - ▶ All have different eligibility requirements
 - ▶ All have different documentation needed
 - ▶ All have different application procedures
 - ▶ All have different distribution methods
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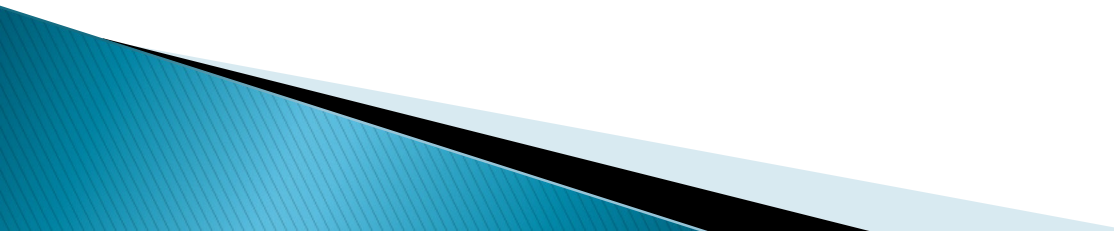
Am I eligible?

- ▶ Income: 138% to 500% of federal poverty level (FPL) – some even higher.
 - ▶ \$16,862 to \$62,450 for an individual
 - ▶ Most use 300% (\$37,470/yr or \$3,122/mth)
 - ▶ Most require no Rx insurance – discount cards are not insurance
 - ▶ Many allow Medicare Rx with some caveats
 - ▶ A few allow any insurance
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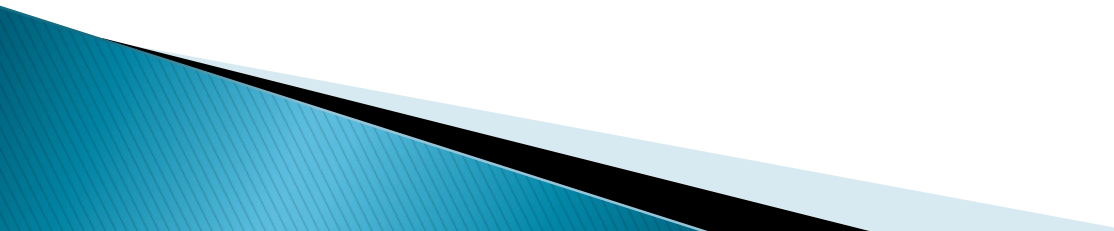
What documents are needed?

- ▶ Completed application
- ▶ Many require separate prescription
 - Usually for 90-day supply with 3 refills
- ▶ Some form of income verification – varies by program
 - Tax return, SSA benefit letter, 30 to 90-days paystubs, IRS form 4506-T, Statement from doctor
- ▶ A few PAP's require an additional information release form

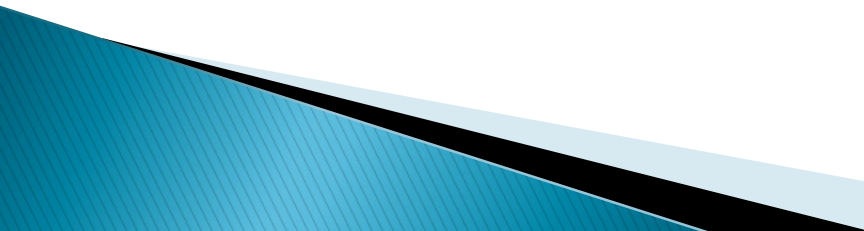
How do I apply?

- ▶ Most require application to be signed by patient and doctor
 - ▶ Some require separate Rx (usually 90 day supply with 3 refills)
 - ▶ Most allow faxing from doctor's office, or original can be mailed in.
 - ▶ Usually doctor and patient are notified in writing of enrollment
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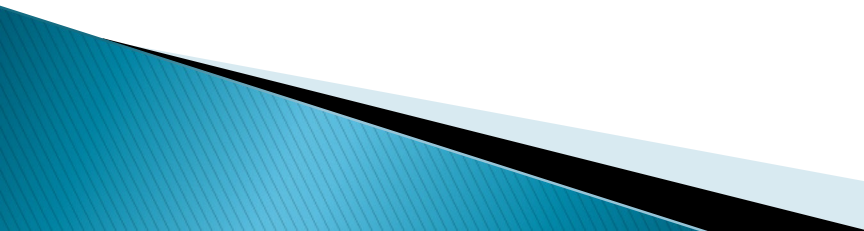
How will I get my medications?

- ▶ Most PAP's provide a 90-day supply of medications
 - ▶ Some provide 120-day supply
 - ▶ Medications are often sent to your doctor's office, many are sent to your home, a few provide pharmacy cards
 - ▶ Refill procedures vary considerably
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What about Medicare Pt D?

- ▶ Many programs allow Medicare Pt D beneficiaries access
 - ▶ May have had to have spent a preset amount on prescriptions this calendar year
 - ▶ May need to be in donut hole
 - ▶ May need to have been denied the SSA Low Income Subsidy (LIS)
 - ▶ Usually enrollment is good until the end of the year
- 

What about generics?

- ▶ Almost always, generics are not available through a PAP
 - ▶ Many generic medications are available for \$4/30-day or \$10/90-day supply
 - ▶ www.GoodRx.com
 - ▶ Washington Prescription Drug Program Discount Card – www.rx.wa.gov
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Is there any other help?

- ▶ Disease based assistance programs
 - You can use PANFoundation's Fund Finder tool
 - fundfinder.panfoundation.org/Home/Index
 - You must create an account
 - Search for grant money by disease
 - Tool provides links to foundations with available funds

Anything Else?

- ▶ Savings cards and coupons – can be used **INSTEAD** of insurance, not with insurance
 - Occasionally may be cheaper than insurance.
 - www.goodrx.com
 - www.rx.wa.gov
- ▶ Ask for a cash discount
- ▶ Shop around – Cash prices can vary greatly between pharmacies

Frequently Asked Questions

- ▶ What about insulins?
 - Insulins are available from 3 programs.
 - Lilly Cares PAP – Humalog/Basaglar,
 - Novo Nordisk PAP – Novolog/Levemir,
 - Sanofi Patient Connections PAP – Lantus/Adipra.
 - All have significant out of pocket requirements for Medicare D patients (think of this as a spenddown).
 - You must have spent this amount on all your prescriptions this calendar year to qualify.
 - Lilly Cares PAP – \$1,100.
 - Novo Nordisk PAP – \$1,000.
 - Sanofi PAP – 5% of annual household income.

Frequently Asked Questions

- ▶ What about inhalers?
 - AstraZeneca (Symbicort) has a out of pocket requirement of 3% of a patient's gross annual income, which cannot exceed 300% FPL.
 - GSK (Advair, Anoro, Breo, Flovent, Serevent, Trelegy, Ventolin) has a out of pocket requirement of \$600, household income cannot exceed 250% FPL.
 - Merck (Asmanex, Dulera, Proventil HFA) has no out of pocket requirement, but the pt must be denied and then return an hardship exception form. Income limit is 400% FPL.
 - Teva (Airduo, Proair, Qvar) excludes Medicare D pt's.

Frequently Asked Questions

- ▶ What about anticoagulants / antiplatelets ?
 - AstraZeneca (Brilinta) has a out of pocket requirement of 3% of a patient's gross annual income, which cannot exceed 300% FPL.
 - Boehringer Ingelheim (Pradaxa) has no restrictions for Medicare D Pt's. Income cannot exceed 300% FPL
 - Bristol Meyer-Squibb (Eliquis) has a out of pocket requirement of 3% of a patient's gross annual income, which cannot exceed 300% FPL.
 - Johnson & Johnson (Xarelto) has a out of pocket requirement of 4% of a patient's gross annual income, which cannot exceed 400% FPL.

Frequently Asked Questions

- ▶ Do all programs have financial eligibility requirements?
 - Yes, but the requirements vary by program.
- ▶ Do programs require citizenship?
 - Many programs require citizenship or legal status. However, quite a few do not. Since your clients are generally citizens or green card holders, this should not come up very frequently.

Frequently Asked Questions

- ▶ When should a SHIBA volunteer refer a client for assistance?
 - Whenever the client indicates difficulty affording their medication.
- ▶ What is the procedure for referring patients for assistance?
 - The following slides outline the procedure.
- ▶ How do I know the outcome of the referral?
 - If the referral comes directly from the volunteer, and I have the volunteer's contact information, I will reach out and let the volunteer know the outcome. It is helpful to let us know that you would like this information in the referral

How do I refer clients for assistance in Western Washington?

- ▶ How do I refer people for assistance?
 - You can call directly at 206-518-0839.
 - You can fax referrals to 866-501-4924.
 - You can email referrals to rods@prescriptiondrugassistance.org.
- ▶ What information do I need to include?
 - Client's contact information.
 - Medication list (or the name of the medication requiring assistance).
 - Prescription insurance (Medicare D, uninsured).
 - Income information (if you have it).

How do I refer clients for assistance in Eastern Washington?

- ▶ How do I refer people for assistance?
 - You can call directly at 509-979-4910.
 - You can fax referrals to 888-342-6910.
 - You can email referrals to kellya@prescriptiondrugassistance.org.
- ▶ What information do I need to include?
 - Client's contact information.
 - Medication list (or the name of the medication requiring assistance).
 - Prescription insurance (Medicare D, uninsured).
 - Income information (if you have it).