

Need Help Affording Your Medications? Talk to Your Pharmacist

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Patients needing assistance with their medications are encouraged to utilize their local pharmacist. Pharmacists can review your medication therapies, determine if there are any lower cost options and work with your physician to make sure you are getting the medications you need. Your pharmacist can also act as your advocate with your insurance company to see your medications are covered.

In addition, pharmacists are knowledgeable about prescription assistance programs, free clinics and may be partnered with local health departments to offer free services, such as immunizations, for those who are insured or underinsured. Utilizing the information below will assist you in working with your pharmacist to find solutions that allow you to continue your therapies while still being able to afford your lifestyle.

Medication Reviews

Pharmacists often conduct medication or brown bag reviews with patients. You're encouraged to make your pharmacist aware of all the medications you're taking so they can discuss your therapy with you, answer any questions you may have, identify and avoid harmful interactions, and assist you in taking your medications correctly. A medication review could also help identify the most cost-effective way for you to purchase multiple medications or have them covered by your insurance.

Patients can bring all their medications to a pharmacy for a consultation, or attend a community brown bag medication review event. Studies have found that pharmacist-led medication reviews can correct some medication-related discrepancies, lower medication costs and decrease the number of medications prescribed. Talk to your pharmacist today about doing a complete review of your medications.

Generics

Generic medications are equivalents to brand name medications that contain the same dose, strength, route of administration, safety, effectiveness and intended use, but because they're produced and distributed without patent protection, they cost both the patient and the insurance company less money. According to the Congressional Budget Office, generic drugs save consumers an estimated \$8-10 billion a year at community pharmacies.

Generics are also available for many over-the-counter medications. Be sure to ask your pharmacist if there is a generic equivalent available for any medications you're purchasing, even if they're not prescriptions.

Resources

There are a number of resources available for patients to find out more about affording medications. The Michigan Society of Health-System Pharmacists (MSHP) created a resource that provides information for those needing help with their prescriptions. It includes questions for patients to ask their pharmacist to get the most from their medications, a list of organizations that provide prescription assistance and a list of free clinics in Michigan. This resource is available at MichiganPharmacists.org/public/assistance. A map showing all the free clinics in the state is also available.

In addition, there are several programs and Internet resources out there to obtain information. Utilize these valuable resources for cost saving options:

- Michigan Department of Community Health: (517) 241-7185, www.michigan.gov/healthcarehelp
- Michigan's Prescription Drug Discount Card: (800) 259-8016, www.mihealth.org/mirx/index.html
- NeedyMeds, Inc.: www.needymeds.org
- Partnership for Prescription Assistance: (888) 477-2669, www.pparxmi.org
- RxAssist: (401) 729-3284, www.rxassist.org/patients
- RxHope: (732) 507-7400, www.rxhope.com
- RxOutreach: (800) 769-3880, www.rxoutreach.com
- Together Rx Access: (800) 444-4106, www.togetherrxaccess.com

Trouble Affording Medications? Your Pharmacist Can Help



Your pharmacist helps keep you safe, so be sure to ask these questions to get the most from your medications:

1. What is the medicine for?
2. How do I take it? How long do I take it?
3. What are the possible side effects? What do I do if I experience them?
4. Is this medicine safe to combine with other medicines or dietary supplements I am taking?
5. What food, drink or activities should I stay away from while taking this medicine?

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(517) 241-7185 | www.michigan.gov/healthcarehelp
Michigan's Prescription Drug Discount Card
(800) 259-8016 | www.mihealth.org/mirx/index.html
Needy Meds, Inc.
www.needymeds.org
Partnership for Prescription Assistance
(888) 477-2669 | www.pparxmi.org
RxAssist
(401) 729-3284 | www.rxassist.org/patients
RxHope
(732) 507-7400 | www.rxhope.com
RxOutreach
(800) 769-3880 | www.rxoutreach.com
Together Rx Access
(800) 444-4106 | www.togetherrxaccess.com

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For more information, ask your pharmacist!

This information is provided by Michigan Pharmacists Association and: