

Medications are
expensive.

We do not want you to
discontinue or reduce the
amount of medicine you take
because you can't afford it.
There are plenty of options to
obtain affordable medications.

In this brochure there are many
suggestions for obtaining more
affordable medications. Please let us
know of your need. We can help assist
you in obtaining medication in a timely
manner according to your need, even
when you can't pay.



**Can't pay for
your medication?**

We can help



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CHANGE THE AMOUNT OF YOUR MEDICATION

Ask the doctor or pharmacy for a change in the amount of medicine. Most physicians tend to fill chronic prescriptions for 30 or 90 days. Most pharmacies add a processing fee to each prescription filled. Receiving a 90 day supply may reduce the number of processing fees or copays over time.

GET SOME SAMPLES

We have a number of drug samples given to us by pharmaceutical representatives. These are typically newer, more costly medicines. Please understand that we don't necessarily prescribe the newest thing out, unless we believe that it is the most effective for you. Nonetheless, we have some samples of useful medication available. Ask us.

ASK FOR A CHEAPER PRESCRIPTION

One of your doctor's primary goals is to prescribe the medication that will best help you. Often the best medication is the most expensive. However, as medication alternatives change over time, there may be reasonable alternatives that are less expensive. Bring your concerns about cost to your doctor's attention.

GET GENERICS

Brand name and generic medications have identical active ingredients but are made by different manufacturers. Generics are generally less expensive than their brand name equivalents. It is rarely necessary to use the brand name instead of a generic medication. Make sure the pharmacist is giving you generic medications unless your doctor has told you to use the brand name.

SHOP AROUND

At times, there are significant price differences between drugstores. Our experience has shown that a newer pharmacy may be the cheapest, but not much longer than a year or so. If you haven't shopped around in a while, do so again. When you do call a pharmacy about the price of a medication, make sure you tell them the dose and the amount of pills.

MARYLAND MEDBANK

MEDBANK of Maryland, Inc. is a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide access to prescription medications for chronically ill, low-income, underinsured and uninsured Maryland residents. Here's how it works:

1. Maryland residents who meet the financial guidelines, have no other prescription coverage, and are not eligible for Medicaid or the Maryland Adult Primary Care Program are eligible.

2. The patient and our office complete a referral form (available at our office)

3. MEDBANK identifies Patient Assistance Programs, completes applications and where required obtains written prescriptions. Most pharmaceutical companies will ship a free 90 day supply to the physician's office.

For more information, call (410) 821-8262 or go to www.medbankmd.com.

PROGRAMS SIMILAR TO MEDBANK:

www.pparx.org

www.freemedicineprogram.com

www.themedicineprogram.com

ARE YOU A VETERAN?

Veterans are entitled to prescriptions at \$8 for a 30 day supply. Call 1-800-827-1000 for more details.

BEWARE OF DRUGS FROM OUTSIDE THE U.S.

Medicine may not be cheaper outside of the US. Many people will travel to Canada or Mexico to obtain cheaper medications. These medications are usually manufactured to the same specifications. But there may not be the same oversight as in the US. And because of this, it is not without its legal risks. The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has taken the position that virtually all shipments of prescription drugs imported from a Canadian pharmacy by a US consumer will violate the law. Look at www.fda.gov to learn more.

SURF CAREFULLY FOR MEDS

Watch out if you order meds online. Read this article on the FDA's website before you consider this:

www.fda.gov/Drugs/ResourcesForYou/ucm080588.htm

Before you buy drugs online or from Canada, read this article:

www.expertlaw/library/pubarticles/online_pharmacy.html

SENIOR PRESCRIPTION DRUG PROGRAM

Maryland provides a prescription program for Seniors with low income and who are on Medicare. For more information, call (800) 551-5995 or visit www.marylandspdap.com.

MARYLAND PHARMACY PROGRAM

For those with low income, the state has a program that provides medication for a small copay. There is also a separate pharmacy assistance program for Medicare enrollees that does not count assets, only current income. Learn more at www.dhmd.state.md.us/mma/mpap