

Medication Assistance

If you are unable to afford all or some of your medications, there are options available to help.

Expertise in Matters of the Heart

Drug Company Assistance:

Most drug manufacturers offer a limited supply of free prescription medication to eligible patients. Pharmaceutical manufacturers' Patient Assistance Programs (PAPs) have different application forms and eligibility requirements. The application is free.

For more information about PAPs, a searchable database is available at www.rxassist.org. The database allows you to search for PAPs by company, brand name, generic name and drug class. Applications are also available. If you don't have internet access, you can ask your doctor or pharmacist to look in their PhRMA directory for more information about PAPs.

RX Outreach is a new Patient Assistance Program developed by Express Scripts Specialty Distribution Services, Inc (ESSDS). The program provides qualified low-income individuals and families with access to generic versions of brand name medications. For more information and to obtain application materials, visit www.rxassist.org.

Pfizer has initiated a program called "Pfizer Pfriends" which helps those without prescription medication insurance save 15 – 50 percent off the retail cash price of Pfizer medicines. Enrolling in the program is free. To apply call 1-866-776-3700 or visit www.pfizerhelpfulanswers.com.

Some drug manufacturers offer drug discount cards for the elderly and disabled; for more information please ask a member of the Heart Center of the Rockies staff.

Additional online resources for prescription assistance:

www.medicare.gov/Prescription/Home.asp
www.helpingpatients.org
www.benefitscheckup.org

If you are on Medicare (65 years of age or disabled):

Medicare recipients who don't have outpatient drug coverage through Medicaid are eligible for Medicare-approved discount cards. These cards may have annual enrollment fees of up to \$30 and offer a discount off the drug's retail price.

If your annual income is no more than \$12,569 for a single person or \$16,862 for a couple, you may also be eligible for a \$600 credit to help

pay for your prescription drugs. You may also be eligible for substantial discounts off the retail price of certain medications. For more information, visit www.medicare.gov or call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227).

If you or a member of your family is a veteran or member of the military:

Active and retired military personnel and their families can visit www.tricare.osd.mil for information regarding The National Mail Order Pharmacy Program. You might also contact the Veteran's Administration at 877-222-VETS (8387) or visit www.va.gov and inquire about prescription benefits available.

Local Resources:

The Health District of Northern Larimer County offers prescription assistance, for more information call (970) 416-6519. The Agency on Aging offers medication assistance programs, to find the nearest office call 1-800-677-1116, or visit www.eldercare.gov.

Heart Center of the Rockies Medication Assistance Program:

If you are a patient of Heart Center of the Rockies, we provide a free service to our patients that allows you to get your medications for free or a discounted rate. The following guidelines must be met for prescription assistance:

- Financial eligibility — Maximum income cannot exceed \$22,000 per year for a single person. (This amount varies from program to program.)
- Assets — The maximum amount varies, but is usually not a factor unless you are receiving monthly income from investment activity.
- Prescription Drug Coverage — Eligible patients cannot have alternate prescription drug coverage through health insurance, Medicaid, or Veteran's services.

If you believe that you meet the above guidelines, please contact the Heart Center of the Rockies office staff listed on this information sheet.

**When researching your options for medication assistance,
we suggest you ask the following questions:**

ELIGIBILITY:

- Is there an income limit? (Do you qualify?)
- Is there an age limit? (Do you qualify?)
- Do you have to be a member of an association to get a discount?
- Does the plan cover you alone, you and your spouse, or your entire family?

COSTS:

- Is there a membership/enrollment fee?
- Is there a monthly fee?
- What are your co-payments?
- Are there additional shipping and handling fees?
- Will the money you save be more than the money you spend on enrollment fees, co-payments, and other fees?

BENEFITS:

- Are drugs provided through a mail-order pharmacy or a walk-in pharmacy?
- Do you have to use a “participating pharmacy?” (Are these convenient to you?)
- Are the drugs you need covered by the plan?
- What drugs are not covered by the plan?
- Does the plan cover both generic and brand name drugs?
- Is the percent discount the same for generic and brand name drugs?
- Is the discount off the retail price?
- Is there a limit on the benefits you can receive in a year?



Leah Salman • 2121 E. Harmony Road, Suites 100 & 200 • Fort Collins, Colorado 80528 • (970) 221-1000

For more information call (970) 221-1000, (800) 459-4241, or visit www.heartcenteroftherockies.com

Expertise in Matters of the Heart