

Quick reference for options to obtain medications

Possible options for you to receive your medications

State of Michigan Prescription Discount Card

The MiRx Card program is free. There is no cost for the card, there is no cost to enroll in the program, and, the MiRx Card is easy to use. MiRx Card holders will take their prescription and their MiRx card to their local participating pharmacy. The pharmacist will fill the prescription and charge the MiRx discounted price. Beneficiaries of the MiRx Card program will save as much as 20 percent off the retail prices they would normally pay as a cash customer. The MiRx Card is designed only for Michigan residents who do not have prescription drug coverage & there is no age limit to participate in the MiRx Card program. To be eligible, applicants must: Be a resident of the State of Michigan, have no other prescription drug coverage, & have an income level at or below the state's median income level. You may download a PDF copy of the MiRx card application at www.michigan.gov/som/0,1607,7-192-29942_32789-100833--,00.html and mail it to the address on the application **OR** you can call 1-866-755-6479 and have an application mailed to your home.

County Based Prescription Discount Cards

Some Michigan Counties are offering prescription drug discount cards. The amount of discount and the eligibility criteria varies from county to county. Contact your local health department to inquire if your county offers a prescription discount card. Below is the contact information for local counties.

Oakland County Prescription Plan 1-866-731-7213

Washtenaw County Prescription Plan (WCPP) (734) 544-6886

Wayne County Prescription Card (313)-833-3450

Free and Low Cost Health Clinics

Some health clinics offer assistance with prescription medications. To locate health clinics in your county contact you health department or the following website: http://www.bcbsm.com/blues/sm/access_more.shtml . The following clinic may be available to residents with no insurance who reside in any Michigan county

Crossroads

92 East Forest
Detroit, MI 48201
(313) 831-2000

* Provides a voucher for a 15 day supply of some medication. Clients must call to set up an appointment, provide verification of no insurance coverage& bring the prescription written by his/her physician with them to the appointment

Prescription Assistance Programs

These programs are sponsored by the drug manufacturing companies who have agreed to offer reduced cost or free medications to those who meet their guidelines. To find a list of medications that may have Prescription Assistance Programs

- go to www.needymeds.com
- on the left side of the webpage click “Brand Name List” or “Generic Name List” This will bring up the list of all medications that have a Prescription Assistance Program
- Once you find the medication, click on the medication name. This will bring up the guidelines, how to receive an application to apply for the program, the physician role in completing the application and the patients role in the application process
- Once the application is completed by the prescribing physician and the patient the application is mailed to the company for approval. Each company has their own guidelines as to where the medication is mailed and how often a new application is to be re-submitted

Department of Human Services

Medicaid is State of Michigan program which provides health care and prescription coverage for low-income families and individuals. This includes families with children, pregnant women, and persons under the age of 21. It also offers help to the blind and disabled, and people age 65 and over. Contact your local Department of Human Services for more information about other eligibility requirements, the telephone number can be phone in your phone book under State government or can be found at <http://www.michigan.gov/dhs> (click on County Office, then click on your county).

Medicare D

As of 1/1/06 Medicare is offering a prescription drug benefit. Individuals must enroll for this program; there are 2 types of prescription programs. One type of program is **Stand-alone prescription drug plans**: you keep Original Medicare and supplemental insurance, and you purchase a plan only for prescriptions. Premium costs for stand-alone plans range from \$14 -\$65/mo., depending on plan. The second plan is **Medicare Advantage** (Medicare Health Plans): medical care and prescription coverage are offered through one plan, and you no longer need supplemental insurance. For additional information contact Medicare at 1-800-MEDICARE.

Veterans Administration Hospital

For veterans only (not spouses). Prescriptions with a \$7 co-pay. The prescriptions must be written by a VA physician, but care can be “co-managed” with a non-VA physician. Patients must enroll and have a VA Primary Care appointment to receive the medications. Contact Veterans Administration at 1-800-827-1000 or www.va.gov with specific questions.

Miscellaneous Options:

1. Compare prices at your local pharmacies to see who offers the lowest price. Sam’s Club & COSTCO offer medications at a lower rate than some pharmacies; no membership is needed to access pharmacy services at either place.
2. Medications from Canada. Senator Debbie Stabenow has referred people to the following companies: www.CanadaRx.com 1-866-262-2174 and www.Canpd.com 1-877-966-0567
3. Bills Pills—this is a pharmacy located in Grand Rapids. The pharmacy is an “insurance free” pharmacy so it has lower costs on medications. The medications can be picked up in the pharmacy or a mail order can be completed. For detailed information go to www.billspills.com or call 1-877-792-4557
4. Compare the cost of the monthly expense for medications to the monthly cost of purchasing a supplemental insurance with prescription coverage. Some individuals spend less when they purchase a supplemental policy compared to purchasing their medications. Contact popular insurance companies (Blue Cross, M-Care, Aetna, etc) for the cost of insurance plans.

If you have questions regarding your situation and current needs please feel free to contact the University of Michigan Guest Assistance Program at (734) 764-6893.