

HIGH COST OF MEDICATION GOT YOU DOWN?

By Dr. Randall Suzuka

You have no drug coverage, your medication costs you \$300/month, and you receive \$1200/month from Social Security for you and your spouse. Do you buy your medication, pay your rent, or eat? For those of you in this situation there is help available. Many pharmaceutical companies have programs available to help. There are basically two types of programs- 1) Discount programs which provide medication at a discounted price and 2) Programs that provide the medication for free. Both programs have income requirements. Below is a table that summarizes the discount programs that I am familiar with. Below that are websites that may help you obtain free medication if you meet the criteria set by the pharmaceutical company.

Company	Phone	Website	Requirements/ Notes
GlaxoSmithKline Orange Card	888-ORANGE6		300% of Federal Poverty Level (\$26000 individual, \$35000 couple)
Novartis Care Card	866-974-CARE	www.novartis.com	300% of Federal Poverty Level
Pfizer Share Card	800-717-6005	www.pfizerforliving.com	\$18000 individual, \$24000 couple \$15 for 30 day supply
LillyAnswers Card	877-RX-LILLY		\$12 for 30 day supply
Together Rx Program	1-800-865-7211 for application 1-888-825-5249 for questions about the program	www.Together-Rx.com	\$28000 individual, \$38000 couple Medicare GSK, ABT, Aventis, AstraZenica, BMY, JNJ(Janssen, L.P., Ortho-McNeil) Novartis 20-40% savings
AdvancePCS RxSavings Plan Card	800-ADVANCE	www.AdvanceRx.com	20% pharmacy discount

Free Medication Program Websites

1. <http://www.helpingpatients.org/>
2. <http://www.benefitscheckup.com/>