

If you have Medicare you can get help with prescription drug costs.

Medicare enrollees are eligible for prescription drug coverage through a Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Plan that covers most outpatient prescription drugs that you get at the pharmacy or through mail-order.

Medicare Part D is only available through private prescription drug plans. Costs vary by plan, and each plan offers a different list of medicines.

Find out if you should sign up for a Medicare Part D plan, and get help choosing a plan that's right for you by calling the Health Insurance Counseling Program at 664-2029 or 366-4465.

EPIC is a New York State program that helps seniors pay for their prescription drugs. You can have other drug coverage, and use EPIC to lower drug costs even more. Call 1-800-332-3742 to find out if you qualify.

Find out more about your health care coverage options -

Get Covered Help line - toll-free
1-888-753-7315

Chautauqua County

- Department of Social Services
661-8227 363-3690
- Managed Care Help Line
1-877-653-0216
- Partners for Prevention
1-800-506-9185
- Family Planning
661-8123 363-3660
- Prenatal Care Assistance Program
483-3337 366-4373

New York State Department of Health

- Child Health Plus
1-800-698-4543
- Family Health Plus
1-877-934-7587
- Healthy New York
1-866-432-5849

Social Security Administration

- Information for Medicare and Disability
1-800-772-1213
Local - 484-9945
- Health Insurance Counseling Program
For Medicare beneficiaries only
664-2029 753-4471
366-4465 962-8131

No Health Insurance?

Worried about paying for your prescription medicines?

You may be eligible for free or low cost prescription drug assistance

A project to improve access to health care coverage made possible by the Community Health Initiative/Chautauqua County Health Network and its community partners

Most people without health insurance can get help paying for prescription medicines.

Talk to your doctor or counselor about the medicine you need. Ask if there is a generic version or a similar generic medicine that will work for you.

Ask for a generic medicine. Generic medicines are safe and effective copies of brand name drugs that have been approved by the federal government. Many generic medicines are available at very low costs through a Discount Generic Drug Program.

Discount Generic Drug Programs are available at most large retail pharmacies. A month's supply of a generic prescription can cost as little as \$4. Each discount program offers a different list of generic medicines. You may have to shop around to find a program that covers your generic medicine. If you shop at an independent drug store, they may be willing to match a lower generic drug price.

Local discount generic drug programs are available at CVS, K-Mart, RiteAid, Tops, Wal-Mart, Walgreens, and Wegmans.

Apply to Patient Assistance Programs (PAPs) for free or low cost medicine directly from the drug company. Most drug companies offer generic or brand name drugs to uninsured, low-income patients with a current prescription.

Get help applying for prescription medicines from -

Partnership for Prescription Assistance (PPARX), toll free at 1-888-477-2669, or at www.pparx.org.

On the Internet at www.NeedyMeds.com

Get more information from The Get Covered Helpline, toll free, at 1-888-753-7315.

Disease-Based Assistance Programs help with the costs of a specific health problem. Programs that help with medicine and supplies are listed on the NeedyMeds website or are available from the Get Covered Helpline.

Use the Chautauqua County Prescription Discount Card it is free for all county residents. Contact the Get Covered Helpline, toll free at 1-888-753-7315 or download a card at www.caremark.com/chautauqua. There are other free discount card programs, and most will result in an average 20% savings on brand named drugs. Discount cards are not prescription insurance. If you have Medicare, you will not need a prescription drug card to get the best savings.

Shop around and compare prices. If your medicine is a newer, or specialty drug, and only available in a brand name, there are several ways you can lower your monthly medicine costs -

Compare prices at different drug stores in your neighborhood. Prescription medicines can vary in price by 30% or more. Talk to your pharmacist who may be willing to match a lower price from another pharmacy.

Compare prices among local pharmacies using the Internet by going to the New York State Health Department website at ww.rx.nyhealth.gov.