



cancer.org | 1.800.227.2345

Help Paying for Prescription Medicines

If you are having trouble paying for your medicines, your first step should be to talk with your cancer care team. They often know about programs and resources that might help with the costs of medicines.

- [Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America \(PhRMA\)](#)
- [NeedyMeds, Inc.](#)
- [RemediChain](#)
- [Store-based drug discount programs](#)
- [BenefitsCheckUp](#)
- [Medicare services](#)
- [Medicaid services](#)
- [State health departments](#)
- [State health marketplaces](#)

There are public and private programs that might be able to help. Some programs let people buy medicines at discounted prices. Others help people cover the whole cost of medicines they can't afford to pay for. You will need to complete an application for all of these programs. Most will require information from your doctor, so ask a member of your cancer care team for help, if needed.

Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA)

Website: medicineassistancetool.org¹

PhRMA created the Medicine Assistance Tool (MAT) to help people search for patient assistance resources from different groups.

Scam Alert: There are people who call, email, or go door-to-door who say they're with

PPA and ask for money or personal information. PhRMA does not ask for money and doesn't call or email people. Contact them directly if someone does this to you.

NeedyMeds, Inc.

Website: www.needymeds.org² Toll-free number: 1-800-503-6897

NeedyMeds provides information about many drug assistance programs. They do not help with problems or help you search for drug assistance programs.

NeedyMeds, Inc., also has its own drug discount card that you can print out for free online. It can be used in certain drugstores, but you can't use it along with your insurance.

Scam Alert: There are lookalike websites that say they're with NeedyMeds that ask for money. NeedyMeds does not ask for money for its information. Contact NeedyMeds if you see anything like this.

RemediChain

Provided by the National Council on the Aging, BenefitsCheckUp is an online resource for people age 55 and older who find it hard to pay for their medicines, health care, utilities, food, and other basic needs. BenefitsCheckUp helps you find state, federal, and private benefits programs where you live. This resource includes programs in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

By answering questions about where you live, your income, and your medicines, this service can find drug assistance programs that might work for you.

The website also includes questionnaires that search for programs to help with rent, food, housing, property taxes, and other needs.

Medicare services

have a different name (TennCare, Medi-Cal, etc.) Contact your State Health Department for more information on requirements and how to apply.

To find your State Health Department, call the US Department of Health and Human Services at this toll-free number: 1-877-696-6775. You can also find it online at www.usa.gov/state-health⁸.

State health marketplaces

Website: www.healthcare.gov⁹

Toll-free number: 1-800-318-2596 (also in Spanish); TTY: 1-855-889-4325

Information on the new insurance law, takes you through the steps of finding insurance and medication coverage, and much more. If you don't have Internet access, the phone number will help you connect with your state's Marketplace to sign up for a plan.

Hyperlinks

1. medicineassistancetool.org/About/Who-We-Are
2. www.needymeds.org/
3. www.donatemyeds.org/
4. www.benefitscheckup.org/
5. www.medicare.gov/
6. www.cancer.org/cancer/financial-insurance-matters/understanding-health-insurance/government-funded-programs/medicare/part-d.html
7. www.cms.gov/MedicaidGenInfo/
8. www.usa.gov/state-health
9. www.healthcare.gov/

References

Altice CK, Banegas MP, Tucker-Seelay RD, et al. Financial hardships experienced by cancer survivors: A systematic review. *J Natl Cancer Inst*, 2017;109(2): 1-17.

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network. The costs of cancer. 2017. Accessed

at <https://www.fightcancer.org/policy-resources/costs-cancer> on August 22, 2023.

National Council on Aging (NCOA). Benefits check up. Accessed at <https://www.benefitscheckup.org> on August 22, 2023.

NeedyMeds. Prescription assistance. Accessed at <https://www.needymeds.org/pap> on August 22, 2023.

Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA). Patient resources. Accessed at <https://medicineassistancetool.org/> on August 22, 2023.

US Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Medicaid. Accessed at <https://www.medicare.gov/basics/costs/help/medicaid> on August 22, 2023.

US Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Pharmaceutical assistance program. Accessed at <https://www.medicare.gov/pharmaceutical-assistance-program/Index.aspx> on August 22, 2023.

US Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Save on medicines. Accessed at <https://www.medicare.gov/basics/costs/help/drug-costs> on August 22, 2023.

Last Revised: September 30, 2023

Written by

The American Cancer Society medical and editorial content team
(<https://www.cancer.org/cancer/acs-medical-content-and-news-staff.html>)

Our team is made up of doctors and oncology certified nurses with deep knowledge of cancer care as well as editors and translators with extensive experience in medical writing.

American Cancer Society medical information is copyrighted material. For reprint requests, please see our Content Usage Policy (www.cancer.org/about-us/policies/content-usage.html).

cancer.org | 1.800.227.2345