

Introduction

Medications are expensive, but the cost may be reduced. Many state agencies, health departments, private organizations, and drug companies offer prescription assistance programs to help patients afford the medication they need. This booklet is designed to help patients find information on what is available. We have given the phone numbers and websites of programs in Virginia and of the major drug companies so that you may call directly or find more information online. The programs have different eligibility requirements and give different amounts of aid, so look through the booklet and find which will work best for you.



STATE AGENCIES

Va. Department of Medical Assistance

(804) 786-4231

www.dmas.virginia.gov

The DMAS website links one to information on statewide company sponsored prescription drug assistance programs, Medicare Discount Cards programs, regional programs, and membership programs. Resource link on DMAS website: Client Services, Prescription Assistance Programs.

Va. Department of Social Services

(804) 726-7000

www.dss.state.va.us

The Department of Social Services determines eligibility for Medicaid.

FAMIS (Family Access to Medical Insurance Security Plan)

(866) 873-2647

www.famis.org

FAMIS is Virginia's health insurance program for children providing health benefits for children who are uninsured, but who are not eligible for Medicaid.

Care Connection for Children

www.vdh.state.va.us

CCC, sponsored by the Virginia Department of Health, is a statewide network of regional programs that provides health care services, community support and resources to children with special health care needs. The University joint sponsors the Charlottesville center. CCC is for children who live in Virginia, are under age 21, and have special health care needs. For more information go to the website or call one of the local offices:

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| Bristol | (276) 645-4900 | Kathy Robinson, Director |
| Charlottesville | (434) 924-0222 | Sandra Woodward, Director |
| Roanoke | (540) 857-7919 | Anna Kennedy, Director |
| Central Virginia | (804) 827-1795 | Barbara Harding, Dir. |
| Northern Virginia | (703) 205-2634 | Margie Farrar-Simpson, Dir |
| Hampton | (757) 668-7132 | Cyndi Fisher, Director |

HEALTH DEPARTMENTS

Contact your community health department. The Virginia Department of Health web page www.vdh.state.va.us has links to the websites of all of the local health districts.

Charlottesville Health District (434) 972-6219

Neither the Health District nor the Charlottesville free clinic has a program. Call Care Connection for Children at (434) 924-0222, or call the Epilepsy Foundation of Virginia at (434) 924-8669 for one-time medication assistance.

Petersburg Health District (804) 863-1652 x318

A patient assistant program exists for eligible patients at their clinic.

Fairfax Health District (703) 246-2411

A patient assistant program exists for eligible patients at their clinic. Call one of these locations:

Falls Church (703) 237-3446

Alexandria (703) 704-5333

Reston (703) 689-2180

Hampton Health District (757) 727-1172

A patient assistant program exists for eligible patients at their clinic. The co-pay depends on income. Call the pharmacy for more information.

Richmond Health District (804) 646-3153

The Richmond Health District will refer you to Social Services for eligibility for Medicaid.

Roanoke Health District (540) 857-7600

The Roanoke Health District will refer you to the following:

Roanoke free clinic (540) 344-5156

Roanoke Area Ministries (540) 981-1732

Southeast Presbyterian (540) 982-2911

PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS

United Way

(703) 836-7112
national.unitedway.org

The United Way does not have a prescription drug assistance program, but some of the local affiliates have useful information about other programs. From the national website, you can get the number of the United Way in your area. The following are a few examples:

Abingdon (276) 628-2160

Charlottesville (434) 972-1701 www.unitedway.tja.org

They have an Insurance for Children Project, which assists families with information and application for Medicaid and FAMIS programs. Call (434) 972-1708.

Fairfax (703) 847-0400 www.unitedwaynca.org

Martinsville (276) 638-3946 unitedwayofhcm.org

Norfolk (757) 853-8500 www.unitedwayshr.org

Infoline (757) 625-4543

Beach Health Clinic (757) 428-5601

This free clinic has a program for uninsured residents of Virginia Beach.

Directory of Medical Assistance (800) 762-6636

They will send you a booklet about medication assistance programs and an application. Once your drugs run out, you can re-submit the application for more.

Richmond (804) 771-5820 www.yourunitedway.org

Roanoke (540) 777-4200 www.uwrv.org

Winchester (540) 536-1610 www.unitedwaynsv.org

Local Churches and Salvation Army Chapters often have medication assistance programs. Free clinics have been established in many areas of Virginia. For a list call the Virginia Association of Free Clinics in Richmond at (804) 340-3434 or go to www.vafreelinics.org.

The Epilepsy Foundation of Virginia has a one-time medication assistance program and continually looks for resources in communities. Go to www.efva.org.

MEDICARE

The **Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act (MMA)** was passed by Congress and President Bush in 2003. This means that Medicare will include a prescription drug benefit in 2006 known as “Medicare Part D.” Patients will be eligible only if they are enrolled in Medicare Part A or Part B. Patients may choose from two different plans per geographic region and subsidies will make medications more affordable for low-income beneficiaries.

In the two years before Part D is implemented, the **Medicare-Approved Drug Discount Cards Program** will help patients pay for their medications. The cards program has been effective since July 2004 and it reduces prescription drug costs by 10%-20%. Patients are eligible if they have Medicare and lack prescription drug insurance, including Medicaid. The program also gives low-income beneficiaries discount cards of \$600, which will allow them to pay only 5%-10% coinsurance when they buy their medication. Patients receiving the cards must have a family income of below \$16,362 and must lack other prescription coverage.

For more information on the Medicare-Approved Drug Discount Cards, call **1-800-MEDICARE** or go to www.medicare.gov.

Source: *Medicare: A Basic Primer*

PATIENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Many Pharmaceutical companies have patient assistance programs to provide low cost or no cost medications. Ask your doctor if the medication you are taking is covered by such a program. The chart below lists anticonvulsant drugs, their makers, and their customer service numbers. As the numbers and policies of the patient assistance programs change often, we have listed the general product information numbers first. Then follows the patient assistance number if it is different than the general number.

| DRUG | MANUFACTURER | PROGRAM |
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| acetazolamide (Diamox) | Barr Laboratories 800-222-4043 www.barrlabs.com | Barr Laboratories does not have a patient assistance program for Diamox. |
| carbamazepine (Tegretol) | Novartis 800-742-2422 800-277-2254 www.novartis.com 888-294-2400 www.together-rx.com | Novartis provides assistance to patients with financial hardship who have no medication insurance. The patient must also be a U.S. resident and have proof of income within the program guidelines. The patient assistance program gives free three month supplies for a year. The patient may call to ask for an application. Novartis also has a Novartis Care Discount Card, which is through the Together Rx Card program. The patient, physician, or pharmacist may call to get more information and to have an application sent. Patients may also go to www.together-rx.com to download an application. |

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| Carbotrol(R) | Shire Richwood, Inc. 800-536-7878 908-203-0657 www.shire.com | If the patient has no public or private insurance a physician may call for an application. If eligible, the patient will receive a three-month supply. Reapplication is necessary every three months and the physician's office must call to ask for an application |
| clonazepam (Klonopin) | Roche Pharmaceuticals 800-526-6367 800-285-4484 www.rocheusa.com | The Roche Patient Assistance Foundation is free to patients who lack prescription coverage and the means to pay for their medication. There is no co-payment and no limit of time that the patient may receive the free drug. Enroll through your doctor. The medication will be shipped to your doctor's office within 48 hours. |
| clorazepate dipotassium (Tranxene) | Ovation 847-282-1000 ext. 255 | Tranxene is not covered by Ovation's patient assistance program. |
| diazepam (Valium) | Roche Pharmaceuticals 800-526-6367 800-285-4484 www.rocheusa.com | The Roche Patient Assistance Foundation is free to patients who lack prescription coverage and the means to pay for their medication. There is no co-payment and no limit of time that the patient may receive the free drug. Enroll through your doctor. The medication will be shipped to your doctor's office within 48 hours. |

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| diazepam rectal gel (Diastat) | Xcel Pharmaceuticals 866-239-9236 800-511-2120 www.xcelpharmaceuticals.com www.rxhope.com | The patient assistance program for Xcel is handled through RxHope. The program is a 1-year program based on income that gives the patient three months of medication at a time. The amount of medication given is according to the prescription, and the patient can reapply after one year. |
| divalproex sodium (Depakote) | Abbott 800-255-5162 www.abbott.com | Patients are eligible if they do not have medication insurance, if they do not receive any federal or state Medicaid or aid, and are financially eligible. Send an application with your annual household income documentation or apply at www.helpingpatients.org . |
| ethosuximide (Zarontin) | Pfizer 800-707-8990 www.pfizer.com 866-376-8100 www.pfizerhelpfulanswers.com 800-717-6005 www.usharerx.com | Pfizer "Helpful Answers" will refer a patient to one of two patient assistance programs: Pfizer's new "Connection to Care" program requires a single income below \$19,000 and a combined income below \$31,000, and a lack of public or private prescription insurance. Patients must submit a tax return or 4506T form, proper income documentation, and a signed prescription. Medications are given in three-month supplies and the patient can call for an application or download from the website. Patients not eligible for Connection to Care may be |

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| | | <p>eligible for the “Pfizer Friends” program. To be eligible the single income must be over \$19,000 and the household income must be over \$31,000. This program will save a patient 50% of the drug cost at the pharmacy. To enroll the patient may call to ask for an application.</p> <p>Ushare gives prescription discounts on Pfizer products with Ushare Prescription Drug Discount Cards. This is not a Medicare benefit but is approved by Medicare. The patient must receive Medicare but no coverage by Medicaid. The patient may only be in one card program, as well. The Prescription Drug Card gives discounts on prescriptions and is based on total household income. If the income is below \$12,559 single and \$15,852 per couple, the patient will receive a \$600 credit where they pay only 5%-10% of the medication until the credit is spent. All Medicare approved prescriptions are covered.</p> |
| ethotoin (Peganone) | Ovation (847) 282-1000 ext. 255 | The program for Peganone is based on income on an individual basis. The patient needs to complete one form and the physician completes the second form. If eligible, the medication is sent within a day. |

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| felbamate (Felbatol) | Wallace 800-526-3840 www.medpointe.com | The Felbatol Patient Assistance Program requires a single income below \$16,000 and a family income below \$25,000, and the patient must have no prescription insurance. The application requires an income tax form and an original copy of the prescription. The program gives a 90-day supply of the medication and the patient can resend the application and prescription every 90 days. |
| gabapentin (Neurontin) | Pfizer 800-707-8990 www.pfizer.com 866-376-8100 www.pfizerhelpfulanswers.com 800-717-6005 www.usharerx.com | <p>Pfizer “Helpful Answers” will refer a patient to one of two patient assistance programs:</p> <p>Pfizer’s new “Connection to Care” program requires a single income below \$19,000 and a combined income below \$31,000, and a lack of public or private prescription insurance. Patients must submit a tax return or 4506T form, proper income documentation, and a signed prescription. Medications are given in three-month supplies and the patient can call for an application or download from the website.</p> <p>Patients not eligible for Connection to Care may be eligible for the “Pfizer Friends” program. To be eligible the single income must be over \$19,000 and the household income must be over \$31,000. This program will save a patient 50% of the drug cost at the pharmacy. To enroll the</p> |

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| | | <p>patient may call to ask for an application.</p> <p>Ushare gives prescription discounts on Pfizer products with Ushare Prescription Drug Discount Cards. This is not a Medicare benefit but is approved by Medicare. The patient must receive Medicare but no coverage by Medicaid. The patient may only be in one card program, as well. The Prescription Drug Card gives discounts on prescriptions and is based on total household income. If the income is below \$12,559 single and \$15,852 per couple, the patient will receive a \$600 credit where they pay only 5%-10% of the medication until the credit is spent. All Medicare approved prescriptions are covered.</p> |
| <p>lamotrigine (Lamictal)</p> | <p>Glaxo Smith Kline 888-825-5249 www.gsk.com</p> | <p>Glaxo Smith Kline has three medication assistance programs:</p> <p>A free “Orange Card” is for seniors without drug insurance and who are enrolled in Medicare or are Medicare eligible due to disability. The card saves 30% of the cost of the medication. Eligible income is below \$30,000 for per individual and below \$40,000 per couple. Only a one-time enrollment is required.</p> |

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| <p>levetiracetam (Keppra)</p> | <p>U.C.B. Pharma 800-477-7877 www.ucbpharma.com www.ucbepilepsy.com</p> | <p>The program for Keppra is based on a single income of below \$15,000 and a married income of below \$25,000. The patient must be a U.S. resident and with no drug coverage other than Medicaid. If eligible, the patient will receive a six-month supply at no cost. The processing time for the application is four to six weeks, and reapplication is necessary every six months.</p> |

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| <p>methsuximide (Celontin)</p> | <p>Pfizer 800-707-8990 www.pfizer.com</p> <p>866-376-8100 www.pfizerhelpfulanswers.com</p> <p>800-717-6005 www.usharerx.com</p> | <p>Celontin is <i>not</i> covered under Pfizer’s Connection to Care Program. However, patients may be eligible for the “Pfizer Friends” program. To be eligible the single income must be over \$19,000 and the household income must be over \$31,000. This program will save a patient 50% of the drug cost at the pharmacy. To enroll the patient may call to ask for an application</p> <p>Ushare gives prescription discounts on Pfizer products with Ushare Prescription Drug Discount Cards. This is not a Medicare benefit but is approved by Medicare. The patient must receive Medicare but no coverage by Medicaid. The patient may only be in one card program, as well. The Prescription Drug Card gives discounts on prescriptions and is based on total household income. If the income is below \$12,559 single and \$15,852 per couple, the patient will receive a \$600 credit where they pay only 5%-10% of the medication until the credit is spent. All Medicare approved prescriptions are covered, including Celontin.</p> |
| <p>mephenytoin (Mesantoin)</p> | <p>Novartis 800-742-2422 800-277-2254 www.novartis.com</p> | <p>Novartis provides assistance to patients with financial hardship who have no medication insurance. The patient must also be a U.S. resident and have proof of income within the program</p> |

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| | <p>888-294-2400 www.together-rx.com</p> | <p>guidelines. The patient assistance program gives free three month supplies for a year. The patient may call to ask for an application.</p> <p>Novartis also has a Novartis Care Discount Card, which is through the Together Rx Card program. The patient, physician, or pharmacist may call to get more information and to have an application sent. Patients may also go to www.together-rx.com to download an application.</p> |
| <p>oxcarbazepine (Trileptal)</p> | <p>Novartis 800-742-2422 800-277-2254 www.novartis.com</p> <p>888-294-2400 www.together-rx.com</p> | <p>Novartis provides assistance to patients with financial hardship who have no medication insurance. The patient must also be a U.S. resident and have proof of income within the program guidelines. The patient assistance program gives free three month supplies for a year. The patient may call to ask for an application.</p> <p>Novartis also has a Novartis Care Discount Card, which is through the Together Rx Card program. The patient, physician, or pharmacist may call to get more information and to have an application sent. Patients may also go to www.together-rx.com to download an application.</p> |
| <p>phenobarbital</p> | <p>Hospira 877-946-7747 www.hospira.com</p> | <p>Neither Hospira nor Abbott has a medication assistance program for phenobarbital.</p> |

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| <p>phenytoin (Dilantin)</p> | <p>Pfizer 800-707-8990 www.pfizer.com</p> <p>866-376-8100 www.pfizerhelpfulanswers.com</p> <p>800-717-6005 www.usharerx.com</p> | <p>Pfizer “Helpful Answers” will refer a patient to one of two patient assistance programs:</p> <p>Pfizer’s new “Connection to Care” program requires a single income below \$19,000 and a combined income below \$31,000, and a lack of public or private prescription insurance. Patients must submit a tax return or 4506T form, proper income documentation, and a signed prescription. Medications are given in three-month supplies and the patient can call for an application or download from the website.</p> <p>Patients not eligible for Connection to Care may be eligible for the “Pfizer Friends” program. To be eligible the single income must be over \$19,000 and the household income must be over \$31,000. This program will save a patient 50% of the drug cost at the pharmacy. To enroll the patient may call to ask for an application</p> <p>Ushare gives prescription discounts on Pfizer products with Ushare Prescription Drug Discount Cards. This is not a Medicare benefit but is approved by Medicare. The patient must receive Medicare but no coverage by Medicaid. The patient may only be in one card program, as well. The Prescription Drug Card gives discounts on prescriptions and is</p> |
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| | | <p>based on total household income. If the income is below \$12,559 single and \$15,852 per couple, the patient will receive a \$600 credit where they pay only 5%-10% of the medication until the credit is spent. All Medicare approved prescriptions are covered.</p> |
| <p>Phenytek</p> | <p>Bertek (888) 823-7835 www.bertek.com</p> | <p>The assistance program for Bertek follows federal poverty guidelines and gives a supply for three months at a time. Physicians may call for an application.</p> |
| <p>primidone (Mysoline)</p> | <p>Xcel 866-239-9236 800-511-2120 www.xcelpharmaceuticals.com www.rxhope.com</p> | <p>The patient assistance program for Xcel is handled through RxHope. The program is a 1-year program based on income that gives the patient three months of medication at a time. The amount of medication given is according to the prescription, and the patient can reapply after one year.</p> |
| <p>tiagabine hydrochloride (Gabitril)</p> | <p>Cephalon 800-782-3656 www.cephalon.com</p> | <p>The assistance program for Gabitril is a one-year program that gives three month supplies at a time, either to the physician or directly to the patient. The patient may reapply every year.</p> |
| <p>topiramate (Topomax)</p> | <p>Ortho-McNeil 800-682-6532 800-577-3788 www.ortho-mcneil.com</p> | <p>Ortho-McNeil makes products available for free when patients meet certain criteria and have no prescription insurance. This patient assistance program gives</p> |

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| | 888-294-2400 www.together-rx.com | <p>three month supplies at a time and the patient must reapply every three months.</p> <p>A Together Rx Card for 20%-40% savings is also available for seniors. The patient must be on Medicare, must be over 65 years old, have no prescription insurance, and have a single income of below \$28,000 and household income of below \$38,000. The card requires a one-time application and it is valid until January 2006. The patient, physician, or pharmacist may call to have an application sent or they can get an application online at www.together-rx.com.</p> <p>Express Scripts gives a free 7-day prescription certificate for Topomax. A patient must present it to a pharmacy with their written prescription for Topomax. Patients may obtain a certificate from their physician.</p> |
| Vagus Nerve Stimulator | Cyberonics 800-332-1375 ext.7493 www.cyberonics.com www.unstherapy.com | The B.J. Wilder Therapy Program gives assistance if the patient has no insurance and cannot afford the VNS stimulator. The patient may download an application from the website, or their physician may call to have an application sent. |
| valproate sodium injection (Depacon) | Abbott 800-255-5162 | Patients are eligible if they do not have medication insurance, if they do not receive any federal |

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| valproic acid (Depakene) | Abbott 800-255-5162 www.abbott.com | Patients are eligible if they do not have medication insurance, if they do not receive any federal or state Medicaid or aid, and are financially eligible. Send an application with your annual household income documentation or apply at www.helpingpatients.org . |
| Zonegran | Elan 800-859-8586 866-347-3185 | The Elan Medical Needs Program gives the patient an identification card for a 90-day supply with no co-pay for one year. The physician and the patient fill out the application, which requires proof of income, a Medicaid denial letter, and proof of residence. |

