



# Need Help With Prescription Drug Coverage?

**Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene**

Parris N. Glendening, Governor

Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, Lt. Governor

Georges C. Benjamin, M.D., Secretary, DHMH

## **Need Help With Prescription Drug Coverage?**

A new State law was recently passed to increase coverage for prescription medications and supplies for people who receive Medicare in Maryland who do not have prescription drug coverage. The law creates a new pharmacy discount program, and expands other existing pharmacy programs to help more people.

This booklet will tell you about the new prescription drug program and other pharmacy programs in Maryland. These programs will help you get your prescriptions filled. This booklet also has the phone numbers of places to call if you have questions.

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## Maryland Pharmacy Assistance Program

**The Maryland Pharmacy Assistance Program (MPAP)** is a program to help Maryland residents pay for certain drugs to treat long term illnesses such as high blood pressure and diabetes. Under the program, you pay \$5 for each prescription and each of two refills within 100 days and the State pays the rest.

People with incomes at or below \$10,000 (\$10,850 for a couple) with assets below \$3,750 (\$4,500 for a couple) may be eligible. The number of people in your house and your income and assets will determine if you are eligible. Current written proof of income and assets (such as savings account statements) may be required. Eligibility is for a 12-month period.

Contact information:

### **Maryland Pharmacy Assistance Program**

P.O. Box 386

Baltimore, MD 21203-0386

410-767-5394

1-800-492-1974



## The Maryland Pharmacy Discount Program

**\*\*\*\*\*Starts in January 2002\*\*\*\*\***

**The Maryland Pharmacy Discount Program (MPDP)** helps Maryland residents who receive Medicare to pay for medically-necessary prescription drugs at a discounted price. Enrollment in the program begins after

January 1, 2002.

To be eligible for the program, you must receive Medicare and have no other public or private prescription drug coverage. Enrollment in the Maryland Medbank Program or the Maryland Pharmacy Assistance Program does not mean an individual cannot be eligible for this program. People who receive Medicare and have incomes below about \$15,000 (\$20,000 for a couple) will qualify for an extra state subsidy to help them pay for their prescriptions.

Contact information: (AFTER OCTOBER 2001)

**Maryland Pharmacy Discount Program**

P.O. Box 386

Baltimore, MD 21203-0386

410-767-5394

800-492-1974

## Short-Term Prescription Drug Subsidy Plan

\*\*\*\*\***Expands Statewide July 2001**\*\*\*\*\*

Maryland residents who receive Medicare may be eligible for prescription drug benefits under the **Short-Term Prescription Drug Subsidy Plan**. This program was initially available in July 2000 to Medicare eligible persons residing in the rural areas. Now people who receive Medicare and reside throughout Maryland, with incomes up to nearly \$26,000 (\$35,000 for a couple), have no other prescription drug benefits at the time of enrollment and are willing to pay the premium and co-payments, may enter this program.

This program is offered only through CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield. Eligible persons can receive up to \$1,000 per contract year in prescription drug benefits. The monthly premium is \$10. There is no deductible. There are out-of-pocket expenses in the form of co-pays, which vary depending on whether the drug is generic, preferred or non-preferred formulary.

Individuals who enrolled last year will remain eligible for the program whether they meet the new income requirements or not. Their accumulated benefits (dollars paid out on their behalf for prescriptions) will be reset to zero, effective July 1, 2001.

This is a subsidized prescription drug program operating on a temporary basis. The coverage will end on June 30, 2003 or on the date the federal government starts an outpatient prescription drug plan for people who receive Medicare; or, if the fund is exhausted. Enrollment in the program is limited to 30,000 individuals.

Contact information:

To apply for the **Short-Term Prescription Drug Subsidy Plan** contact CareFirst at 800-972-4612.

**CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield**

10455 Mill Run Circle  
Owings Mills, MD 21117

## Maryland Medbank Program

\*\*\*\*\*Expands Statewide July 2001\*\*\*\*\*

**The Maryland Medbank Program** is funded by a grant from The Maryland Health Care Foundation to allow people to get free medicines from drug manufacturers. These patient assistance programs provide certain medicines based on the criteria of the manufacturing companies. To be eligible, you must be low-income and you must not be enrolled in any other prescription medicine plan. Your physician or other health care professional must make all referrals to the program. MEDBANK is currently available in Baltimore City, Baltimore County and Western Maryland. Statewide enrollment under the program begins after July 1, 2001.

Contact Information:

**Baltimore Metro Regional Offices and Headquarters  
MEDBANK of Maryland, Inc.**

7400 York Road, Suite 105

Towson, Maryland 21204

410-821-9262

Fax: 410-821-9265

**No walk-ins; please call.**

**Western Maryland Regional Offices**

**Allegany County**

1 Frederick Street  
Cumberland, Maryland 21502  
301-784-7253  
Fax: 301-784-7222

**Garrett County**

2008 Maryland Highway  
Mountain Lake Park, Maryland 21550  
301-334-8150  
Fax: 301-334-1014

**Washington County**

24 N. Walnut Street  
Hagerstown, Maryland 21740  
301-393-3441  
Fax: 301-393-3411



**Eastern Shore Regional Office**

To Be Determined  
410-821-9262

**Southern Maryland Regional Office**

To Be Determined  
410-821-9262

**Washington, DC Metro Regional Office**

To Be Determined  
410-821-9262

## Maryland AIDS Drug Assistance Program

**The Maryland AIDS Drug Assistance Program (MADAP)** helps low to moderate income Maryland residents pay for some drugs prescribed to treat HIV/AIDS. There is no co-pay at the pharmacy when using MADAP; however, there may be a monthly participation fee, depending upon the person's income.

MADAP eligibility is based on income and household size. Individuals with a household income at or below \$34,360 a year (\$46,440 for a couple) may be eligible. MADAP evaluates the income of the applicant, their legal spouse, and any dependent children (under age 18) living with the applicant.

Contact information:

**Client Services Division, AIDS Administration**

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene  
500 N. Calvert Street, 5th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202

800-205-6308

410-767-6535

[www.dhmh.state.md.us/AIDS/chhs.htm](http://www.dhmh.state.md.us/AIDS/chhs.htm)

## **Department of Veterans Affairs Uniform Benefits Package**

**The Department of Veterans Affairs Uniform Benefits Package** provides health care to veterans, especially prescription drug coverage. The standard enhanced health benefits plan is available to all enrolled veterans.

Contact:

**Department of Veterans Affairs:** 877-222-8387

[www.va.gov/health/elig](http://www.va.gov/health/elig)



## Information and Referral

### **Answers For The Aging**

Catholic Charities' Answers For The Aging program provides seniors and their advocates with accurate, comprehensive, and up-to-date information about available programs and services throughout Maryland. The counselors assess needs, assist callers in developing workable options, connect them with necessary resources, and advocate for unmet needs.

Contact information:

#### **Answers For The Aging**

3320 Benson Avenue

Baltimore, MD 21227

410-646-0100; 888-50-ASKUS

[www.catholiccharities-md.org](http://www.catholiccharities-md.org)

### **First Call For Help**

Sponsored by The United Way of Central Maryland, this is a referral and information service with access to many agencies and programs in central Maryland.

Contact: 1-800-492-0618

### **Senior Information and Assistance Program**

Sponsored by the Maryland Department of Aging, this program provides information, access and referral to services and programs for persons ages 60 years and older. For the number of the Senior Information and Assistance Office nearest you, see page 9.

[www.mdoa.state.md.us](http://www.mdoa.state.md.us)

## **Senior Information and Assistance Offices in Maryland**

Allegany County	301-777-5970
Anne Arundel County	410-222-4464
Baltimore City	410-396-1341
Baltimore County	410-887-2594
Calvert County	410-535-4606
Caroline County	410-479-2093
Carroll County	410-876-3363
Cecil County	410-996-5295
Charles County	301-934-0118
Dorchester County	410-221-1930
Frederick County	301-694-1604
Garrett County	301-334-9431
Harford County	410-638-3025
Howard County	410-313-7212
Kent County	410-778-2564
Montgomery County	240-777-3000
Prince George's County	301-699-2696
Queen Anne's County	410-758-0848
Somerset County	410-651-0020
St. Mary's County	301-475-4444
Talbot County	410-822-2869
Washington County	301-790-0275
Wicomico County	410-543-0388
Worcester County	410-632-1289

## **Questions All Patients Should Ask Their Pharmacist About Their Medications**

1. What is the name of the medication, and what is it supposed to do?
2. When and how do I take it?
3. How long should I take it?
4. Does this medication contain anything that can cause an allergic reaction?
5. Should I avoid alcohol, any other medications, foods and/or activities?
6. Should I expect any side effects?
7. Is there a generic version of the medication my doctor has prescribed?
8. What if I forget to take my medication?
9. Is it safe to become pregnant or to breastfeed while taking this medication?
10. How should I store my medications?

**Pharmacists are your best sources for information  
on how to get the most from your medicines.  
Ask your pharmacist questions --  
he or she is trained  
to serve as your medication advisor.**

Choose your pharmacist as carefully as you choose your doctor because he or she is an important part of your health care team. It is not uncommon to see more than one doctor; for this reason it is very important to use just one pharmacy, so your medication records will be located in one place.

The services and facilities of the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) are operated on a non-discriminatory basis. This policy prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, or national origin and applies to the provisions of employment and granting of advantages, privileges and accommodations.

The Department, in compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, ensures that qualified individuals with disabilities are given an opportunity to participate in and benefit from DHMH services, programs, benefits, and employment opportunities.

*6/2001*