

## Patient Assistance Programs

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*Patients may need assistance in order to purchase medications, and they may be reluctant to ask for help and therefore not follow medication recommendations. The following resources are available to help midwives and clients successfully navigate the maze of assistance programs.*

There are several **Patient Assistance Programs (PAPs)** available for clients who need help paying for prescriptions or other medical care. A useful article that helps tie together the many aspects of these programs and includes additional links is: *How to Help Your Low-Income Patients Get Prescription Drugs*, American Academy of Family Physicians Web site (Montemayor K, Family Practice Management, Nov/Dec 2002) at: <http://www.aafp.org/fpm/20021100/51howt.html>

### **Resources For Older Individuals**

**Area Agencies on Aging** locally may be able to assist patients who are 65 or older and cannot afford their medications. To find an agency near you, contact the Eldercare Locator at 800-677-1116 or online at [www.eldercare.gov](http://www.eldercare.gov).

**The Access to Benefits Coalition** found at: <http://www.accesstobenefits.org/>

The Access to Benefits Coalition™ (ABC) is dedicated to ensuring that Medicare beneficiaries with lower incomes know about and can make the best use of all available resources for reducing the costs of prescription drugs. This coalition includes more than 80 national organizations such as AARP, Easter Seals and The National Council on the Aging, as well as hundreds of state and local organizations. ABC's "BenefitsCheckupRx" is a powerful, Web-based tool that helps individuals find quickly and easily what prescription savings programs they qualify for. It will provide a confidential, personalized report of public and private programs that can help save money on their prescription drugs.

### **Other Patient Assistance Programs**

**The Medicine Program.** This organization was established by volunteers dedicated to helping patients who cannot afford their prescription medication. Their function, in cooperation with the provider, is to assist patients who may qualify to enroll in one or more of the many patient assistance programs now available. Additional information about this program and eligibility criteria are found at: <http://www.themedicineprogram.com/>. Telephone: 1-866-694-3893.

**NeedyMeds** ([www.needy meds.com](http://www.needy meds.com)): This site allows you to search for information by program or drug name. It includes detailed program information, forms, news and other useful tools. NeedyMeds also offers a printed manual for purchase.

**Partnership for Prescription Assistance (PPA)** <https://www.pparx.org/about.php>, helps consumers and health care professionals determine what pharmaceutical company or state drug assistance programs may be available for lower income individuals. They may also be contacted at 1-888-4PPA-NOW (1-888-477-2669).

**RxAssist** (<http://rxassist.org/>): This site is sponsored by Volunteers in Health Care , a nonprofit, national resource center funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation that provides assistance to programs serving the uninsured. RxAssist is a comprehensive database that allows you to search for information by company, brand name, generic name or therapeutic drug class. Detailed program information and application forms are available, as well as information on other strategies for accessing free and low-cost medications. For more information about Volunteers in Health Care resources on pharmaceutical access, visit [www.volunteersinhealthcare.org](http://www.volunteersinhealthcare.org). Health providers may call 401-729-3284.

**RxHope** ([www.rxhope.com](http://www.rxhope.com)): RxHope is a privately held company that has received funding from several sources including PhRMA. This site includes detailed PAP information and application forms. RxHope is unique because a small number of companies allow physicians to submit PAP applications electronically through this site.

**The following are some of the additional links available with information about patient assistance programs:**

The National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) provides patient assistance programs for mental health medications. <http://www.nami.org/helpline/freemed.htm>

National Council of State Legislators - state pharmaceutical assistance programs:  
<http://www.ncsl.org/programs/health/drugaid.htm>

Treatment Resource Center, AIDS Survival Project, Atlanta, Georgia  
<http://www.aidsurvivalproject.org/programs/trc.html>.

Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA's) Center for Mental Health Services patient assistance programs:  
<http://www.mentalhealth.org/consumersurvivor/patientassistance.asp>

This link provides a list of pharmaceutical assistance programs by state and by company for cancer treatment and other medications.  
[http://breastcancer.about.com/od/financesinsurance/a/rxmeds02\\_3.htm](http://breastcancer.about.com/od/financesinsurance/a/rxmeds02_3.htm).

*Thank you to the organizations that have provided information and resources on their Web sites.*

ACNM makes no claim as to the accuracy or timeliness of the information provided by these organizations. The ACNM “QuickInfo” series was developed by the Department of Professional Services to respond to common inquiries, summarizing ACNM resources regarding a particular topic, as well as listing selected literature and a variety of other resources. Your feedback is welcomed; contact Professional Services at 240-485-1800 or [info@acnm.org](mailto:info@acnm.org). 11/12/04

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