Prescription Drug Assistance Programs Available in Virginia

1. The Low-Income Subsidy through Social Security

According to the **Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 (MMA),** Medicare implemented a prescription drug benefit starting in 2006.

Anyone who has Medicare can get Medicare Prescription Drug coverage. Extra help is available for some people with limited income and resources. It will pay for all or most of the monthly premiums and annual deductibles and lower the prescription co-payments related to their plan. The extra help could be worth up to $3,600 per year. Many people with limited income and resources qualify for these big savings and don't even know it. To find out if someone is eligible, Social Security will need to know their income and the value of their savings, investments and real estate (other than their home). If they are married and living with their spouse, we will need this information for both of them.

To qualify for extra help they must have:

- Income limited to $16,245 for an individual or $21,855 for a married couple living together.

  Even if their annual income is higher, the ones you care about still may be able to get some help with monthly premiums, annual deductibles and prescription co-payments. Some examples where income may be higher include if they or their spouse:

  o Support other family members who live with them;
  o Have earnings from work; or
  o Live in Alaska or Hawaii; and

- Resources limited to $12,510 for an individual or $25,010 for a married couple living together. Resources include such things as bank accounts, stocks and bonds. We **do not** count their house and car as resources.

Apply for extra help on Social Security's website:
https://secure.ssa.gov/apps6z/i1020/main.html

Read additional information about the low-income subsidy, apply for the subsidy and locate other assistance programs through the Access to Benefits Coalition Website:
http://www.accesstobenefits.org/

Additionally, the National Council on Aging sponsors a website that allows seniors to enter information to locate all assistance programs available based on individual information. Please visit **http://www.benefitscheckup.org** for more information.

2. State Pharmacy Assistance Programs

Name of Organization	Who they help	Qualifications
State Pharmaceutical Assistance Program (SPAP)	In Virginia: Help is available to individuals participating in the Virginia AIDS Drug Assistance Program with income between 135% and 300% of the Federal Poverty Level and are part D beneficiaries.	Eligibility for SPAP's are determined by the individual states and may require applicants to meet income, asset, age and Part D eligibility standards. In Virginia an individual must have an Income between **135% and 300% of the Federal Poverty Level** and be Part D beneficiaries.
AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP)	The AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) is supported through a combination of State and Federal funding. The Virginia AIDS Drug Assistance Program provides medication for the treatment of HIV/AIDS to individuals without insurance coverage or third party benefits for ADAP medications.	1. All client eligibility for ADAP is determined at local health departments or through Virginia Commonwealth University Health Systems Financial Counseling and Governmental Services. 2. The client will need to provide written prescriptions for all requested medications. Documentation of CD4 and viral load counts are required for some medications. 3. Clients must have no third party insurance coverage for the prescribed medication(s). 4. A change in federal policy now gives Veterans (who meet all other ADAP eligibility criteria) the option of accessing covered medications through ADAP. 5. The client must be ineligible for Medicaid. The Medicaid Referral Assessment Form provides a means to screen ADAP clients to determine whether referral to Department of Social Services to submit a Medicaid application is indicated. If client is referred, verification of application submission must be provided within 14 days of entry into ADAP. The local health department will provide the client with medications through ADAP until Medicaid is approved. To remain eligible for ADAP, clients must submit proof of Medicaid ineligibility within 90 days of Medicaid application. If a client loses Medicaid coverage, medications will again be provided through ADAP. 6. Yearly family income cannot be more than **400% of the federal poverty level (FPL).** 7. Individuals without income must bring either a signed letter of support or evidence of employment status to the local health department. It is no longer required that this documentation be notarized.

		8. ADAP eligibility must be recertified every 12 months. Clients are required to report changes in income, insurance or Medicaid status when they occur. Failure to report changes in factors impacting eligibility may result in discontinuation of ADAP services.
		9. Clients shall be considered ineligible for ADAP after two documented attempts by local health department staff to obtain proof of income, insurance or Medicaid status.
		10. Clients are not required to live in the heath district where they receive ADAP.
		11. HIV-infected pregnant women or newborn infants of HIV-infected mothers are eligible for antiretroviral regardless of the CD4 count or viral load.
		12. New ADAP clients currently on antiretroviral therapy are not required to meet the CD4 and viral load requirements. A statement documenting current antiretroviral treatment and previous source of funding must be reported to the ADAP coordinator.
Patient Services Incorporated (PSI)	PSI is a non-profit organization that helps people who live with **certain chronic illnesses or conditions**, locate suitable health insurance coverage and access ways to satisfy expensive co-payments PSI provides assistance with the cost of health insurance premiums associated with COBRA's, State High Risk Pools, Open enrollment, Guaranteed issue policies, HIPPA conversion policies and prescriptions copayments associated with private insurance as well as with Medicare Parts B and D. There is help for the following conditions - Acromegaly - Alpha1 Antitrypsin Deficiency - Asthma - Bone Metastases - Chronic Myelogenous Leukemia - Cutaneous T-Cell Lymphoma (CTCL) - Cystic Fibrosis (with Pseudomonas) - Fabry Disease - Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumors - Grief Program (complications due to bleeding disorders) - Hemophilia - Hereditary Angioedema - Inhibitors in Hemophilia - Insulin like Growth Factor 1 Deficiency (IGF1) - MPS 1	PSI will evaluate an individual's financial, medical and insurance situation to determine who is eligible for premium or co-payment assistance

	▪ Patient Services Items Program (PSIp) ▪ Pompe Disease ▪ Primary Immune Deficiency ▪ Rheumatoid Arthritis ▪ Severe Congenital Protein C Deficiency ▪ von Willebrand Disease ▪ Virginia HIV/AIDS SPAP Program	

3. Prescription Drug Discount Programs offered by organizations other than drug-manufacturing companies.

Prescription drug discount programs are also offered by non-pharmaceutical organizations. Two examples of this type of program are **Needymeds.com (http://www.needymeds.com),** and **FreeMedicineFoundation.com (http://www.freemedicinefoundation.com)**. You can find other discount card programs by using an Internet search engine (such as http://www.google.com or http://www.yahoo.com) and using the search term "prescription drugs."

4. Generic Drugs

You may be able to save money by using generic drugs rather than brand-name drugs. When a drug company develops a new drug, they give it a brand-name and obtain a patent for it from the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA). The patent gives the drug company the exclusive right to make the brand-name drug for a certain period of time. This allows the drug manufacturer to earn back the money they invested in developing and testing the drug.

Once the patent expires, other drug companies can apply to the FDA to sell their version of the same drug. These versions are called generic drugs, and they are often less expensive than the original. If you are trying to save money on your prescriptions, you may want to consider talking with your doctor to see if the generic version of a drug would be all right for you to use.

All drugs sold in the United States must be approved by the FDA regardless of whether they are brand-name or generic, so consumers can be sure that the drugs they take have been approved by a federal agency. For more information on generic drugs, visit these web sites: listed below.

- **Blue Cross & Blue Shield: Generic Drugs: The Unadvertised Brand** – (http://www.theunadvertisedbrand.com/)

- **U.S. Food & Drug Administration's Generic Drug Brochure** - http://www.fda.gov/cder/consumerinfo/generic_equivalence.htm

- **$4 generics at participating stores such as Walmart, Target, Kroger, etc.**

5. Statewide Company-Sponsored Prescription Drug Assistance Programs

The card programs shown in the table below are **NOT** a part of Medicare's Drug Discount Cards Program. They are programs offered by drug companies as alternatives to the cards offered in the Medicare Drug Discount Cards Program.

Drug Discount Program	Savings on Brand Name Medications	Annual Enrollment Fee	Eligibility Guidelines	Contact/Questions
Affordable Health Card	Up to 60% discount on generic prescriptions and 20-50% off brand name prescriptions (dental, vision, hearing, chiropractic, physical therapy and more)	$15 activation fee plus $24.95 for Gold Family Plan or $28.95 for Platinum Family Plan	Anyone	1-800-214-0611 affordablehealthcard.com
Alliance Health Card	Discount of 10-60% depending on prescription (dental, vision, hearing, chiropractic, physical therapy and more)	$99.95 family membership- Gold plan or $159.95 for Platinum Card	Anyone	1-888-699-9472 alliancehealthcard.com
CVS Health Savings Pass	Discounts on retail price of 5-50% (dental, vision, prescriptions and more)	Basic Plan is $69.95 per couple per year; Plus Plan is $99.95 per couple per year	Age 50 and older	1-888-616-2273 cvshealthpass.com

Merck Prescription Discount Program	Discounts of at least 10% when presenting a Merck Instant Savings Certificate. Savings of 15-20% by enrolling in the Merck Prescription Discount Program	FREE	Anyone who does not have prescription drug coverage	1-800-506-3725 merck.com/merckhelps
Nations Health	Discount of 21-50% depending on prescription	FREE	Anyone	1-800-298-1554 nationshelp.com
Pfizer Friends	Average savings of 15-50%	FREE	Must be 18 or older; Legal US Resident; Cannot have other prescription drug coverage, Income at or below 300% of FPL	1-866-776-3700 pfizerhelpfulanswers.com
Plan Plus	Discounts up to 40% (dental, vision, hearing, podiatry, chiropractic, prescriptions, vitamins)	$9.95/family monthly fee	Anyone	1-800-527-7557 1-866-855-7526 planplussavings.com
Rx101 Savers Card	Discounts of 15-60%, depends on prescription. Discounts of 20-30% on diabetic supplies	FREE	Anyone who does not have prescription drug coverage	1-877-377-9107 rx101saverscard.org
Rx Outreach	Savings on over 125 generic medications	$20, $30, or $40 for each 90-day supply	Annual income of less than $31,200/individual and $42,000/couple	1-800-769-3880 rxoutreach.com

Together Rx Access	Discounts of 25-40% on brand name and generic products	FREE	Available to those without Medicare or any other drug coverage; must be legal resident of US; annual income less than $30,000/individual, $40,000/couple	1-800-444-4106 togetherrxaccess.com
Virginia Drug Card	Discounts of 10-75%	FREE	Any Virginia Resident	1-800-775-9092 virginiadrugcard.com
Walgreens Prescription Savings Club	$12.99 for 3 month supply of over 400 generics and prescriptions savings on over 5,000 drugs	$20/year for individual; $35/year for families	For those with no prescription drug coverage or insufficient coverage	1-866-992-7312 walgreens.com
Xubex	Over 250 generic medications available; Free diabetic kits are also available	$20, $40, or $80 per prescription (no enrollment fee or monthly charge	Must be US resident; Medicare beneficiaries can participate	1-866-699-8239 xubex.com

6. Regional & Membership Prescription Assistance Programs

RxRelief Virginia grantees - VHCF Medication Assistance Programs	Areas Served	Contact
Alexandria Neighborhood Health Services	Alexandria and surrounding communities	703-535-5568
Blue Ridge Center	Nelson & Amherst Counties	434-263-4000
Bon Secours Maryview Foundation Health Center	Portsmouth	757-215-3100
Carillion Giles Memorial Hospital	Giles, Craig counties	540-921-6064
Carillion New River Valley Medical Center	Radford, Montgomery County	540-731-2412
Chesapeake Care Free Clinic	Chesapeake	757-545-5700
Community Memorial Healthcenter	South Hill, Mecklenburg County and surrounding areas	434-447-3151
Eastern Shore Rural Health System	Eastern Shore	757-414-0400
Free Clinic of Central Virginia- MedsHelp	Lynchburg, Bedford	434-947-5137
Halifax Regional Development Foundation	South Boston, Halifax County	434-517-3515

Hampton Ecumenical Lodgings and Provisions	Newport News and Hampton	757-850-8956
Highland Medical Center	Highland County	540-468-3300
Loudoun Community Health Center	Loudoun County	703-680-7950 x 105
MedAssist of Martinsville and Henry County	Martinsville and Henry County	276-666-7668
MedAssist of Patrick County	Patrick County	276-694-8662
Mount Rogers Medication Assistance Program	Bland, Carroll, Grayson, Smyth, Washington, Wythe Counties, Cities of Bristol and Galax	276-496-4492
New Horizons Healthcare	Roanoke Area	540-345-1391
Northern Virginia Family Services	Northern Virginia	703-219-3971
Peninsula Institute for Community Health	Newport News, Hampton Roads	757-244-8650, x430
Pharmacy Connect through Mountain Empire Older Citizens	Far Southwest Virginia	276-523-4202
Piedmont Access to Health Services (PATHS)	Danville, Pittsylvania County	434-791-3632
Rappahannock Rapidan Community Services Board	Culpeper, Fauquier, Rappahannock, Orange, Madison Counties	540-825-3100, x3012
Crossover Ministries	Richmond and surrounding areas	804-233-5016
Fan Free Clinic	Richmond and surrounding areas	804-358-6343x112
Richmond Area High Blood Pressure Center	Richmond and surrounding areas	804-359-9375
Southern Dominion Health Systems	Lunenburg, Dinwiddie, Amelia, and Greensville Counties	434-696-2165
Tri-Area Health Clinic	Carroll, Floyd, Franklin and Patrick Counties	540-398-2292
United Way-Thomas Jefferson Area	Charlottesville and surrounding areas	434-972-1701
Western Tidewater Free Clinic	Franklin, Isle of Wight, Southampton and Suffolk communities	757-923-1060
Charles City Regional Health Services	Charles City and New Kent Counties	804-829-6600
Colonial Services Board	Williamsburg and surrounding areas	757-220-3200
Gloucester Mathews Free Clinic	Gloucester and Mathews Counties	804-642-9515
King William Dawn Community Doctors	King William, King and Queen Counties	804-769-3022
Lackey Free Clinic	Williamsburg and surrounding areas	757-886-0608

| Northern Neck Free Health Clinic | Middlesex County and Northern Neck | 804-435-0575 |
| Olde Towne Medical Center | Williamsburg, James City and York Counties | 757-259-3258 |

Need Further Assistance?

Are you confused about what type of insurance you need, or whether you have enough insurance coverage? Are you having problems making sense of your medical bills? If so, insurance counseling is available through **the Virginia Insurance Counseling and Assistance Program (VICAP)**. VICAP counselors at your local Area Agency on Aging (AAA) can help you resolve claims or billing problems. They can also assist you with filing for benefits, and sorting through complicated statements and notices. Trained VICAP counselors in communities across the state provide **confidential** assistance to individuals in their area **free of charge**. VICAP counselors are not permitted to hold licenses to sell insurance. They are not permitted to recommend a particular insurance company. To get in touch with a VICAP counselor in your area, contact your local AAA or the Virginia Department for the Aging using the information shown below:

Virginia Department for the Aging

1610 Forest Avenue, Suite 100 Richmond, VA 23229

Toll-Free: 1-800-552-3402

Richmond area: (804) 662-9333 Fax: (804) 662-9354
E-mail: aging@vda.virginia.gov
Web Site: http://www.vda.virginia.gov

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