



Tips for Lowering Your Prescription Drug Costs 2026

Medicare is the federal health insurance program for people age 65 and older and persons with disabilities. Prescription drug benefits received through Medicare are called Medicare Part D. Medicare Part D plans are available to all Medicare beneficiaries, regardless of income.

Review Your Part D Plan Annually

The annual Medicare Open Enrollment period, Oct. 15 through Dec. 7, is your opportunity to review your Part D plan, compare it with others on the market for the coming year, and change it if you find a plan that benefits you more. You can check to ensure that all your prescription drugs are covered, and that you have the Part D plan with the lowest premium and/or deductible. The MI Options SHIP Medicare Counseling Program can help you compare plans every fall, or help you find a Part D plan if you've never had one: Contact MI Options at 800-803-7174.

Extra Help

Medicare beneficiaries with annual income less than \$23,940 for a single person, or \$32,460 for a couple, and limited assets may qualify for extra help with paying for prescription drugs. The amount of extra help a beneficiary is eligible for depends on income and assets. For questions or to apply for extra help, call the Social Security Administration at 1-800-772-1213 or visit www.socialsecurity.gov. MI Options SHIP Counselors also provides one-on-one assistance with this application; contact them at 800-803-7174.

Consider Switching to Generics or Other Lower-Cost Drugs

Medicare beneficiaries may wish to talk to their doctor about the drugs currently being taken to find out if there are **generic or less-expensive brand-name drugs** that would work just as well as the drugs being taken now.

Compare Prices at Other Pharmacies

Prescription drug prices can vary from pharmacy to pharmacy. You may save money by transferring your prescription to a different pharmacy. For pricing information on the most common prescriptions, contact Michigan Drug Prices by visiting www.michigandrugprices.com. Many pharmacies offer discount programs to persons over the age of 60. Ask your local pharmacy if they have a program available to help lower the cost of your prescription drugs. Using mail order pharmacies may also help to save money.

Pharmaceutical Patient Assistance Programs

Many of the major drug manufacturers offer assistance programs for people enrolled in Medicare Part D. To find out whether a Patient Assistance Program is available for the drugs you take, contact MMAP at 800-803-7174. A list of brand name and generic drugs and their Patient Assistance Programs are also available at www.needymeds.org and discounts on numerous prescription drugs can be accessed through Good Rx: goodrx.com

State and County Discount Programs

The State of Michigan offers all residents a free prescription drug discount program through its Michigan Rx Card. Information is available by calling 1-866-755-6479 or visit the website michiganrxcard.com

Some counties offer residents prescription discount cards, or free assistance in applying for Patient Assistance Programs. For more information, contact the agency in your county.

Some local agencies also provide limited financial assistance in paying for prescriptions. Most programs provide service in times of an emergency for people with a low income. For more information on agencies that may be able to help, contact MI Options SHIP Counseling at 800-803-7174.