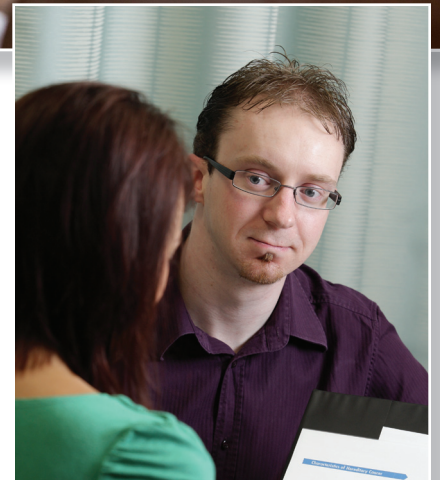


Need help paying for your medications?
Need help understanding your insurance benefits?

Patient Assistance

Educating and Empowering Cancer Patients and Their Families

A diagnosis of cancer is never easy. It can be even harder when you're having trouble paying for your medications and treatment. For some patients, the financial difficulties begin when they are first diagnosed with cancer. For others, financial pressures build up over the course of treatment. The good news is that there are a number of programs available that may help. If you cannot afford your medications and are not sure where to turn for help, this information can help.



What is Patient Assistance?

Patient assistance programs help many patients afford their cancer treatment. Since medications are usually the most expensive part of treatment, most patient assistance programs were developed to help patients afford their anti-cancer drugs. There are both pharmaceutical (drug manufacturers) and non-pharmaceutical (generally non-profit) patient assistance programs. This brochure offers general information about both types of programs.

Who is Eligible for Patient Assistance?

Most patient assistance programs recognize three different patient categories:

1. Uninsured (people with no insurance)
2. Underinsured (people with limited insurance benefits)
3. Insured (people with insurance who have trouble affording their co-payment).

It is important to know your category because eligibility for patient assistance programs varies by category. For example, most pharma-

ceutical company patient assistance programs are geared to help uninsured patients.

What is Co-Pay Assistance?

If you need help paying for your drug(s), start by contacting the manufacturer of each drug. Keep in mind, however, that most pharmaceutical patient assistance programs are geared towards helping patients with no insurance.

If you have some type of insurance but still need help paying for your anti-cancer drugs, you can apply for what is commonly called co-pay assistance. Some pharmaceutical companies offer co-pay assistance. Most

co-pay assistance comes from non-pharmaceutical patient assistance programs. Some of these programs also help with other expenses related to cancer treatment, such as travel or childcare costs.

How Do I Find a Patient Assistance Program?

Your doctor can help you identify an appropriate patient assistance program. The Association of Community Cancer Centers' *Reimbursement and Patient Assistance Guide* is one tool he or she can use to help you. This online resource allows your doctor to print out the information and forms you need to apply

to different patient assistance programs. It is available to ACCC members at: www.accc-cancer.org/publications/publications-PAP.asp.

You can also research patient assistance options on your own. In this brochure we list websites and telephone numbers for:

- 1) pharmaceutical patient assistance programs from companies that supply some of the most commonly used anti-cancer drugs and
- 2) non-pharmaceutical patient assistance programs from organizations that offer patient assistance. You can learn about these patient assistance programs online or contact them directly by email or phone.

What Information Do I Need to Gather Before Applying for Patient Assistance?

Most patient assistance programs require basic information, including:

- ✓ Proof of U.S. citizenship
- ✓ Medical condition and name of the drug(s) you are using
- ✓ Physician's contact information (name, address, telephone and fax numbers)
- ✓ Documentation of household income
- ✓ Insured patients will need their insurance information and co-payment amounts.

How Do I Apply for Patient Assistance?

Once you have identified an appropriate patient assistance program, work with your doctor to assess your eligibility and to submit the appropriate application(s) and documentation. Although patient assistance programs have different eligibility criteria and application processes, here are a few common questions you should ask when applying for any patient assistance.

- ✓ How long will the process take once my application is submitted?
- ✓ How will I know if I have been approved or denied assistance?
- ✓ Will my doctor be told when I have been approved or denied assistance?
- ✓ Where will payments be sent if I am approved for assistance (to the doctor or to me)?
- ✓ How long will I receive assistance?

Photo credits: Top, Overlake Hospital Medical Center, Washington; left to right, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center Orlando, Florida; Spectrum Health Cancer Institute, Michigan.

Pharmaceutical Company Patient Assistance Programs

- Allos Therapeutics, Inc.
www.getasapinfo.com
1.877.272.7102
- Amgen, Inc.
www.amgenassistonline.com
1.888.4ASSIST (1.888.427.7478)
- AstraZeneca
www.astrazeneca-us.com/help-affording-your-medicines
1.800.292.6363
- Bayer HealthCare Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
www.nexavar-us.com
1.866.639.2827
- Bristol-Myers Squibb
www.destinationaccess.com
1.800.861.0048
- Celgene
www.celgenepatientsupport.com
1.800.931.8691
- Centocor Ortho Biotech, Inc.
www.centocoraccessone.com
1.800.609.1083
- Cephalon Oncology
www.cephalononcologycore.com
1.888.587.3263
- Eisai Pharmaceuticals
www.eisair reimbursement.com
1.866.613.4724
- Eli Lilly and Company
www.lillypatientone.com
1.866.472.8663
- Genentech, Inc.
www.genentechaccesssolutions.com
1.866.4.ACCESS (1.866.422.2377)
- Genzyme Corporation
www.genzymeoncology.com
1.888.466.9634 (Mozobil)
1.888.497.6436 (Thyrogen)
- GlaxoSmithKline
www.gsk-access.com
1.866.265.6491

- Merck & Co.
www.merck.com/merckhelps
1.866.363.6379
- Millennium Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
www.velcade.com/payingfortreatment.aspx
1.866.835.2233
- Novartis Pharmaceuticals
<http://novartisoncology.us/reimbursement/index.jsp>
1.800.277.2254
- Pfizer, Inc.
www.pfizerhelpfulanswers.com
1.866.706.2400
- sanofi-aventis
www.pactplusonline.com
1.800.996.6626

Non-Pharmaceutical Patient Assistance Programs

- BenefitsCheckUp®
www.benefitscheckup.org
- Co-Pay Relief
www.copays.org
1.866.512.3861
- Needy Meds
www.needy meds.org
- Partnership for Prescription Assistance
www.pparx.org
1.888.477.2669
- Patient Advocate Foundation
www.patientadvocate.org
1.800.532.5274
- Rx Assist
www.rxassist.org
401.729.3284
- RxHope™
www.rxhope.com
1.877.267.0517
- Rx Outreach®
www.rxoutreach.com
1.800.769.3880
- Together Rx Access® Card
www.togetherrxaccess.com
1.800.444.4106

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