Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging
PRESCRIPTION GUIDE

Counties Served
Delaware
Fairfield
Fayette
Franklin
Licking
Madison
Pickaway
Union

614-645-7250
800-589-7277
www.coaaa.org

Your Aging and Disability Resource Network

Updated March 2019
This information is provided by the:
The National Family Caregiver Support Program.

This is a nationally funded program operated in Central Ohio by the Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging (COAAA). It offers caregiver workshops and funds services designed to assist caregivers on a short term basis. The services include: information and assistance, counseling, respite, and other supplemental services.

Request a copy or download our other guides:

- Central Ohio Older Adults Resource Guide
- The Caregiver Toolbox
- Central Ohio Independent Senior Housing and Home Repair Guide
- Central Ohio Long Term Care and Hospice Guide
- Central Ohio Private Homecare Guide
- Central Ohio Utility Guide
- Central Ohio Transportation Guide
- Central Ohio Support Group Guide
- Central Ohio Respite Guide
- Central Ohio Moving and Transitions Guide
- Books, Videos, and Websites for Family Caregivers

The COAAA also provides monthly Caregiver Support Groups and Information Sessions. For more information, call 1-800-589-7277 or visit www.coaaa.org.

Or in your county, call one of these agencies:

- Delaware – SourcePoint 740-363-6677
- Fairfield – Meals on Wheels of Fairfield County 740-681-5050
- Fayette – Community Action Commission of Fayette County 740-335-7282
- Franklin – Franklin County Office on Aging 614-525-6200
- Licking – Licking County Aging Program 740-345-0821/800-452-0097
- Madison – Madison County Senior Center 740-852-3001
- Pickaway – Pickaway County Senior Center 740-474-8831
- Union – Union County Senior Services 937-644-1010
Central Ohio Prescription Guide

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Introduction to Prescription Assistance

A wide-range of programs exists to help consumers who are struggling to afford their prescription drugs. To simplify your search for help, first check out your eligibility for programs offering broad prescription coverage, such as Medicare, Medicaid, Veterans and Military Retiree benefits. Contact information for these is included in this guide. If you are not eligible for these broader programs, or if you have gaps in coverage, then read on for a sampling of local, state, and national programs that offer assistance – and some helpful suggestions!

This resource manual is brought to you by the Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging. Any unauthorized use and/or duplication of this material without the prior express and written permission from the Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging is strictly prohibited. This manual is not a substitute for professional advice and care. If you have specific needs, please see a professional provider. Links to websites are provided for convenience and do not constitute or imply endorsement. Every reasonable effort is taken to ensure accurate information; however, we cannot guarantee completeness or timeliness. COAAA assumes no responsibility for outcomes resulting from the use of information contained in this manual.
**Medicare Drug Benefit (Part D)**

On January 1, 2006, Medicare began offering prescription drug coverage under a new part of Medicare (Part D).

- Private companies (Prescription Drug Plans) provide this coverage.
- Anyone who has Medicare Part A and/or Part B can get Medicare prescription drug coverage under Part D.
- Medicare Advantage Plans (HMOs or PPOs) may include this benefit as well.

**Enrollment**

You may join a Medicare prescription drug plan during your 7-month initial enrollment period.

- This time period includes the 3 months prior to your eligibility for Medicare, the month of your Medicare eligibility, and the 3 months following eligibility.
- If you want the Part D benefit, it is important to sign up during the 7-month initial enrollment period. If you enroll after this period, your premium for Part D will be higher.
- If you have prescription drug coverage from an employer, union, or other group, contact your organization’s benefits administrator to determine your options. You may not need Medicare Part D. **In addition, those who receive their prescription coverage through the VA are not required to enroll in Part D and are exempt from penalties should they enroll in the future.**

**Costs**

- You will pay a monthly premium, and you may have a yearly deductible.
- You will also pay a portion of the cost of your prescriptions in the form of a co-payment.
- Costs will vary depending on the plan you choose.

**Take Note!**

If you have Part D and are having trouble paying for your prescriptions, you may qualify for assistance or “EXTRA HELP” to pay for the drug benefit. Call the **Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging** at 614-645-7250 or 800-589-7277 to find out if you qualify for EXTRA HELP.

**Enrolled in a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan, but in THE GAP?**

- Apply for the “EXTRA HELP” with Part D costs offered through the Social Security Administration.
- Check out the mail order option of your Part D plan.
- Talk with your doctor about using generic or less expensive brand-name drugs.
- Explore your eligibility for “wrap-around” coverage through a former employer or union.
- Explore national & local organizations that assist with prescription costs.
- Check out the Patient Assistance Programs (PAP) offered by the drug companies that manufacture your medications.

**Remember**, each year from October 15 to December 7, you have the option to switch to a different Medicare prescription drug plan.

The following organizations can help you:

- Ohio Senior Health Insurance Information Program (OSHIIP): 800-686-1578 or [www.insurance.ohio.gov](http://www.insurance.ohio.gov)
- Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging, 614-645-7250 or 800-589-7277 or [www.coaaa.org](http://www.coaaa.org)
- Medicare, 800-633-4227 or [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov)
**Medicaid Assistance**
Medicaid is a State/Federal assistance program for people who cannot afford healthcare. More Ohioans now qualify for Medicaid.
- Medicaid coverage has expanded to include adults without children.
- The income limits for Ohio Medicaid have also increased.
- There is no deadline to apply for Medicaid.

To see if you qualify:
- Call the Ohio Medicaid Consumer Hotline at 800-324-8680
- Go to [https://benefits.ohio.gov](https://benefits.ohio.gov)

**Veterans Assistance**
To find out if you qualify for Veterans Administration healthcare and prescription drug benefits, call 1-877-222-8387 or [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov), [www.dvs.ohio.gov](http://www.dvs.ohio.gov). There are also some veteran’s assistance websites at [www.vetsfirst.org](http://www.vetsfirst.org) and [www.veteranaid.org](http://www.veteranaid.org).

**Military Retirees Assistance**
Uniformed Services Retirees (including retired members of the National Guard and Reserves) who served 20 years in the military, their family members and survivors, and some former spouses (who have not remarried) should call the Defense Manpower Data Center Support Office: 1-800-538-9552 to explore eligibility for medical coverage and the TRICARE for Life. Additional information is available at: [www.tricare.mil](http://www.tricare.mil)

**Patient Assistance Programs (PAPs)**
PAPs are programs offered by drug companies that provide medications FREE to those who qualify.
- Eligibility criteria vary with each program.
- Medicare beneficiaries MAY be eligible for PAPs while in the Part D coverage gap.
- Most PAPs do not assist consumers who have government benefits such as Medicaid, or those with private insurance.
- To apply, consumers need to know which companies manufacture their medications.
- The following website will help you to find this information, determine PAP eligibility, and print/submit applications: [www.pparx.org](http://www.pparx.org)

**Organizations assisting with PAP applications typically:**
- Screen for consumer’s eligibility for PAPs
- Search for drug company PAPs based on the consumer’s list of medications
- Provide or prepare applications for the consumer’s and the physician’s signatures
- Assist with application renewal (usually every 90 days)

**Applications may take up to 6 weeks to be approved** by the drug company. When approved, the PAP ships the medication to the patient, the patient’s doctor, or may provide a redeemable voucher.

**Tip:** Your doctor will need to sign off on the application for the PAP. Depending on the program, the PAP may ship your free medications to the doctor’s office. Be sure your doctor’s office is agreeable to this and will call you when your medications are available.
Generic Medications
Whether or not you have reached a gap in coverage, the use of generic drugs significantly reduces prescription drug costs.

Generic drugs meet the same standards as brand name drugs established by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for quality, strength, purity, and stability. When you receive a prescription, ask your doctor if you can use the generic version of the drug.

For more information on generic drugs and to search for a generic equivalent for a brand name drug, go to www.fda.gov, click on “Drugs,” then scroll down to box on left side labeled “Resources for You,” and click on “Consumers”; look under FAQs and click on “Generic Drugs,” or call 800-463-6332.

Tip: If you are prescribed a drug that you cannot afford or that is not covered under your plan, talk with your doctor. Often there are other drugs that are effective, cost less, or are covered under your plan.

National
Generic Medication Assistance
RX Outreach, 888-796-1234 or www.rxoutreach.org
- Nationwide program for uninsured and underinsured individuals.
- Offers over 600 medications (primarily generic) at $20-$40 (includes shipping/handling) for a 90-day supply.
- Income criteria apply.
- Medications are mailed to the consumer.
- No enrollment/application fees.

Local
Retail Pharmacies Offering Discounted Generic Drugs
- Costco, Drug Mart, Giant Eagle, Kmart, Meijer, Sam’s Club, Target, Walgreens
  - Usually $4.00 for a 30-day supply & $10.00 for a 90-day supply.
  - Some require a prescription written for a 90-day supply.
  - Some require a person to join their membership club to gain access to discounts. Membership fees may apply.

Prescription Drug Discount Programs
TAKE NOTE!
Be sure to let the doctor, clinic, or emergency room staff where you receive medical treatment know if you cannot afford to have a prescription filled. They may be able to provide you with a short-term supply of medication.

Ohio’s Best RX
866-923-7879 or www.ohiobestrx.org
- A state-sponsored prescription discount card for Ohioans of any age.
- No application or enrollment fee.
• A mail order option is available.
• Use the website to check drug pricing and to find participating pharmacies.
• Savings average 40% across brand and generic medications combined
• Provides discounts on diabetic supplies in addition to medications
• Can be used during the Medicare Part D coverage gap.
• Ohio residents who qualify based on age or income status are eligible to receive additional savings.

Other Assistance: (Short-Term, Emergency, & Specific Situations)

In Delaware County:
• **SourcePoint** Call for information. 740-363-6677/800-994-2255
• **People in Need**
  o As funds are available. 740-363-6284; www.delawarepeopleinneed.org;
  o Make an appointment, take picture ID and proof of residency

In Fairfield County:
• **Information and Referral for Fairfield Co. Inc.**
  o Assistance depends on the prescription, the consumer, & cost. 740-687-0500

In Franklin County:
• **Charitable Pharmacy of Central Ohio, Inc.**
  614-227-0301, www.charitablepharmacy.org, or charitablepharmacy@gmail.com address is Livingston Avenue United Methodist Church, 200 E. Livingston Ave., Columbus 43215
  o Open to residents of Franklin County only
  o Provides free medication and assists individuals with income up to 200% of federal poverty level. A person is eligible if they are uninsured, have no prescription drug coverage, or are unable to afford co-pays.
  o Hours: 8:30 to 3:30 – Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday
  o New patients must schedule an appointment
  o To apply for assistance, bring:
    ▪ Proof of income, Proof of Franklin County residency, original prescriptions or prescription bottles showing remaining refills.

• **Gladden Community House:**
  o Assistance limited to zip codes: 43222, 43223, 43215 West of Scioto River. 614-221-7801

• **Breathing Association:**
  o 614-457-4570 or www.breathingassociation.org
  o Lung Health Clinic provides healthcare to people with lung health conditions and who are without insurance.
  o Provides assistance with prescriptions and medical supplies
  o Household Income within 200% of federal poverty guidelines

• **Columbus Cancer Clinic:**
  o Income 150% of poverty: 614-263-5006 or www.lifecarealliance.org
• **Joint Organization for Inner City Needs (JOIN):**
  - For adults age 60 and over, assistance is limited to $100 in 12 months for any drug; if under 60, limited to $50 in 12 months but only for antibiotics, diabetes, blood pressure, heart, breathing, seizures or cholesterol medications.
  - Phone hours are: 10AM – 11:30AM and 1PM – 2PM at 614-241-2531
  - 578 East Main Street, Columbus OH 43215.
    - Walk-ins (same hours) welcome

**Assistance with Prescription Drug Plan Copayments**

**Patient Advocate Foundation’s Co-pay Relief (CPR):**
- 866-512-3861 or Email: help@patientadvocate.org or Website: [www.copays.org](http://www.copays.org)
- **Patient must be insured.** Assists with co-pays for medications, and other pharmaceutical products covered by the consumer’s drug plan; assists with deductibles for medications.
- Assistance to consumers diagnosed with cancers, osteoporosis, hepatitis B &C, and HIV/AIDS
- Income criteria apply, but household size and medical expenses (including premiums) are considered.
- Pays the copay directly to the provider (doctor or pharmacy), or reimburses the consumer.
- Can help with outstanding bills.
- Maintains the National Financial Resource Directory that generates lists of organizations to meet a wide range of needs on website.

**Good Days (formerly Chronic Disease Fund):**
- 877-968-7233 or [www.mygooddays.org](http://www.mygooddays.org)
- Assists with the cost of medication co-pays.
- Must have health insurance that covers part of the cost.
- Assistance is limited to certain medical conditions and to specific drugs.
- Assistance is available for a wide-range of conditions.
- Eligibility is based on income, household size, and medical expenses including premiums.
- Also assists with patient travel (by road or air), patient lodging, and travel costs such as parking, fuel, and meals.

**The Health Well Foundation:**
- **800-675-8416,** Apply online at: [www.healthwellfoundation.org](http://www.healthwellfoundation.org)
- Assists with copays, deductibles, and out of pocket expenses for supplies, supplements, surgeries, and more on items covered by consumer’s plan. Can even assist with insurance premiums if consumer is eligible, but cannot afford insurance (includes Medicare drug plan premium).
- Limited to consumers diagnosed with certain medical conditions. May also pay for pediatric treatment and travel costs.
- Income criteria apply, but household size and medical expenses (including insurance premiums) are considered.
- Must have health insurance that covers part of the cost.

**Cancer Financial Assistance Coalition (CFAC):**
- [www.cancerfac.org](http://www.cancerfac.org)
- A coalition of organizations that links cancer patients to organizations that provide financial help with various needs associated with cancer treatment. Search CFAC’s online database to find member organizations. Contact individual member organizations directly to explore assistance available.

**CancerCare:**
- 800-813-4673 (HOPE) [www.cancercare.org](http://www.cancercare.org)
- A non-profit organization that helps with insurance co-pays for chemotherapy and targeted treatments.
- Offers limited financial assistance for cancer-related costs such as transportation, home care, and child care.

**Consumer Reports Best Buy Drugs:**
- [www.crbestbuydrugs.org](http://www.crbestbuydrugs.org). Search on “Prescription Drugs” to get helpful videos on prescription drug safety and savings.

**National Organization for Rare Diseases, Inc. (NORD):**
- 800-999-6673 or [www.rarediseases.org](http://www.rarediseases.org)
- Assistance is limited to specific medications. Also assists in obtaining some medications not yet on the market. Maintains a Rare Disease Database and an Orphan (rare disease) Drug Database. Provides information on free or low-cost air travel to distant treatment or clinical trial locations.

**Patient Services Inc.:**
- 800-366-7741, [www.patientservicesinc.org](http://www.patientservicesinc.org)
- Assists with insurance premiums, prescription and treatment co-pays. May subsidize or cover cost associated with travel to/from a treatment center. Income criteria apply, but household size is considered. Limited to consumers diagnosed with certain medical conditions.
Buying Prescriptions Online

On-Line pharmacies offer convenience and may sell prescriptions at a discount. It is important to be safe when buying medication over the Internet. Some pharmacies have been found to sell “fake” or counterfeit drugs. These may have dangerous ingredients or not contain the prescribed amount of the medication.

Tips:

- Do not purchase from an on-line pharmacy that does not require a prescription from a U.S. licensed physician.
- Look for the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy’s Verified Internet Pharmacy Practice Sites (VIPPS) seal displayed on the home page of the on-line pharmacy.

This indicates the pharmacy is in compliance with state licensing and inspection requirements. For more information on VIPPS go to www.vipps.info

- Find out how the website protects your personal information.
- For more safety tips on purchasing prescription drugs over the Internet go to: http://www.fda.gov
The Central Ohio Aging and Disability Resource Network (ADRN) is a collaborative effort of the Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging and community partners, designed to streamline access to long-term services and supports that promote community living, personal choice and independence for older adults and all persons with disabilities regardless of age. Central Ohio Community Partners Include:

**CareStar Case Management Agency**
2760 Airport Drive, #130, Columbus, OH 43219, 614-751-7777, [www.carestar.com](http://www.carestar.com)

**Centers for Independent Living**
- **MOBILE: Center for Independent Living** (Mid Ohio)
  690 High Street, Columbus, OH 43206
  614-443-5946, [www.mobileonline.org](http://www.mobileonline.org)
- **SOCIL (Southeastern Ohio Center for Independent Living)**
  Fairfield County Office, 418 South Broad Street, Lancaster, OH 43130
  740-689-1494
  Hocking County Office, 1369 East Front Street Logan, OH 43138
  740-380-1475, [www.socil.org](http://www.socil.org)
- **CDE — Center for Disability Empowerment**
  510 E. North Broadway, Columbus, OH 43214, 614-575-8055
  [www.disabilityempowerment.net](http://www.disabilityempowerment.net)

**Senior Service Providers**
- **SourcePoint**, 800 Cheshire Dr., Delaware, OH 43015, 740-363-6677, [www.mysourcepoint.org](http://www.mysourcepoint.org)
- **Meals on Wheels of Fairfield County**, 253 Boving Rd., Lancaster, OH 43130, 740-681-5050, [www.mowfc.org](http://www.mowfc.org)
- **Fayette County Commission on Aging**, 1179 S. Elm St., Washington Court House OH 43160, 740-335-2159, [www.fayettecoa.com](http://www.fayettecoa.com)
- **Franklin County Office on Aging**, 280 E. Broad St., 3rd Floor, Columbus, OH 43215, 614-525-6200, [www.officeonaging.org](http://www.officeonaging.org)
- **Licking County Aging Program**, 1058 E. Main St., Newark, OH 43055, 740-345-0821/800-452-0097, [www.lcap.org](http://www.lcap.org)
- **Madison County Senior Center**, 280 W. High St., London, OH 43140, 740-852-3001, [www.mcsenior.org](http://www.mcsenior.org)
- **Pickaway County Senior Center**, 2105 Chickasaw Dr., P.O. Box 565, Circleville, OH 43113, 740-474-8831, [www.pickawayseniors.org](http://www.pickawayseniors.org)
- **Union County Senior Services**, 940 London Ave, Marysville, OH 43040,
Navigating the Medicare system can be difficult.

Our experts at the Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging are ready to answer your Medicare questions!

Call us today to receive free unbiased information to help you make informed decisions.

We do not represent or sell insurance products.

Funded in part by:

Your Aging and Disability Resource Network

800-589-7277 www.coaaa.org