



HCSP FACT SHEET

HCV ADVOCATE

• BEING AN EFFECTIVE HEALTHCARE CONSUMER •

Tips for Lowering Prescription Drug Costs

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Foreword

Prescription drug costs are going up. Don't be embarrassed if you can't afford a medication. Nearly everyone has been hit by rising health care prices.

The following are some cost-saving tips to consider:

- Ask your doctor if there is a cheaper version of your medication, such as a generic form.
- Inquire about free samples.
- See if you qualify for a pharmaceutical patient assistance program. For more information contact Partnership for Prescription Assistance at 1-888-477-2669 www.pparx.org. Needy Meds www.needymeds.com, Medication Card www.medicationcard.org, or Simple Savings Card www.simplesavingscard.com programs offer free discount cards.
- Shop for the best drug price, such as through Costco, wholesale, or reliable Internet-based pharmacies.
- Look for discounted drug prices, such as through your insurance plan, AAA or AARP. Insurance pharmacy mail order plans can really cut costs.
- If it's a drug you are confident you will be taking for some time and at a steady dose, see if a 90-day supply costs less than a 30-day supply.
- Look for coupons in magazines or on drug manufacturers' websites.
- Join a discount pharmacy program. These programs offer discounted drug prices for an annual membership fee. If you are interested in this option, make sure the membership fee is reasonable and that the program carries the medications you are taking.
- For assistance with insurance co-pay, see Patient Assistance Fact Sheets listed at end of this fact sheet.
- Compare the price of different strengths of the drug. Ask your doctor if the pill can be prescribed at a higher dose and safely divided in half. For instance, if you are supposed to take a 5 mg dose of a medication every day, it may be

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The information in this fact sheet is designed to help you understand and manage HCV and is not intended as medical advice. All persons with HCV should consult a medical practitioner for diagnosis and treatment of HCV.

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cost effective to purchase a 30-day supply of a 10 mg dose and divide it in two. This would stretch the medication over a 60 day time period. Some pills should not be cut without first clearing this with your doctor. A word of caution – this may violate the rules of your insurance company and might not be permitted.

- For more information about Medicare programs, call Medicare at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) or go to www.medicare.gov. The Benefits Column, by Jacques Chambers, CLU at the HCV Advocate website, provides some interesting information about this program and

other disability and benefits topics. www.hcvadvocate.org/hepatitis/living_w_hepatitis_C.asp

- Ask if there are any clinical trials in your area using the drug treatment that you need.
- Purchasing prescription drugs in Canada, Mexico, or overseas is controversial. In some cases, this is legal and other cases it is not. The laws about this vary, depending on the medication and how it is being used. Medication from another country is not always the same or safe and not necessarily cheaper. However, sometimes it can be the same drug priced at a substantial savings.

Related publications:

- **Help with Medicines (Patient Assistance)**
www.hcvadvocate.org/hepatitis/easyfacts/e_Patient_Assistance.pdf
- **Patient Assistance Programs**
www.hcvadvocate.org/hepatitis/factsheets_pdf/Patient_Assistance.pdf
- **Medication Guidelines**
www.hcvadvocate.org/hepatitis/factsheets_pdf/med_guidelines.pdf

For more information

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
www.cdc.gov • Food and Drug Administration (FDA):
www.fda.gov | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help4Hep
(877) HELP4HEP (877) 435-7443
www.help4hep.org • Hepatitis C Support Project
www.hcvadvocate.org |
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Visit our websites to learn more about viral hepatitis:

**www.hcvadvocate.org • www.hbvadvocate.org
www.hepatitistattoos.org**

