

HOW TO FIND AFFORDABLE MEDICATIONS

When it comes to finding affordable medications, you have options!

SHOP AROUND

Did you know that pharmacies set their own prices for medications? There can be big differences between pharmacies. Know your options by shopping around. You can sometimes find price information on a pharmacy's website. For example, Walmart has an online list of medications that it charges \$4 or \$9 for a one month supply.

DOSAGE AMOUNT

Some medications will have significantly different prices based on the dose of each tablet and depending on how the prescription is written. For some medications, taking two tablets of 200 mg each, instead of a single 400 mg tablet, will result in a cheaper prescription. Ask the pharmacist if there is a price difference based on the dose of the tablet. If there is, ask your prescribing provider (doctor or nurse) to adjust your prescription accordingly.

NON-PROFIT PHARMACIES

RxOutreach is a non-profit pharmacy whose mission is to make medication affordable. You can look up your medication on their website: rxoutreach.org

ONLINE & COMPOUND PHARMACIES

Online pharmacies may offer lower prices but there are a few things to know about them. They often require you to buy a 3 month supply at a time. Also, there are fraudulent and unsafe online pharmacies so please learn how to know if a pharmacy is legitimate and safe. Here is information from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration about purchasing medication over the internet: <https://www.fda.gov/drugs/buying-using-medicine-safely/quick-tips-buying-medicines-over-internet>

The National Association of Boards of Pharmacy has a resource list for locating legitimate online pharmacies: <https://safe.pharmacy>

Compounding pharmacies make medications on site rather than sell pre-made medication. They may offer more affordable prices for medications that can be compounded, such as injectable testosterone or estrogen or hormone creams. Examples include New Era Pharmacy (<https://newerapharmacy.com>) and Mark Drugs (<https://www.markdrugs.com>),

GENERIC VERSIONS

If a generic version is available for your medication, it is probably cheaper. The active ingredients are the same in generic and brand name versions of a medication, so generics should work the same as the name brand. However, the 'inactive' ingredients, for example, coloring agents and ingredients that are used to form the tablet, may be different. Some people may notice different responses to a medication because of these inactive ingredients.

DISCOUNT PROGRAMS

Some pharmacies offer their own discount programs. You buy a membership and then get discounts for certain medications. Walgreens is one example.

Pharmaceutical companies offer 'Patient Discount Programs' for some medications. Here's a website that helps you research and apply for these programs: <http://www.rxassist.org>

DISCOUNT CARDS & COUPONS

There are companies that offer pharmacy discount cards, which are generally free and can be used at participating pharmacies. One of many is Script Save WellRx, online at <https://www.wellrx.com>

Goodrx.com is an online site that offers coupons that you can take to local pharmacies. You can also use this site to compare prices between major pharmacies for a specific medication.

USING INSURANCE

If you have insurance, your insurance plan will decide if your medication is covered and if you have to pay anything for it. Your plan may require that your provider ask for 'prior authorization' for some medications. You can call your insurance company and ask if the medication is covered and if prior authorization is needed.

ASK YOUR CARE PROVIDER

Your health care provider may know of foundations or programs that assist with free or low-cost medications or devices, such as IUDs (intrauterine contraceptive device).