

Consumer Assistance Program

Help with Prescription Drug Costs



Drug costs are disproportionately higher in the U.S. than in other countries, and they are continuing to rise. Pharmaceutical companies have monopolized our prescription drug market. Among other systemic drivers, patents and exclusive marketing rights granted by the FDA block lower cost generic drugs from entering the market and lead to price inflation.

If you are struggling with the high cost of prescription drugs, we encourage you to reach out to us. In many cases, prescription drugs lead to a better overall health outcome and even lower overall health care costs.

These high costs are a substantial barrier for many but you have options. CCHI's Consumer Assistance Program can help you find more affordable prescriptions through manufacturer assistance and foundation assistance programs.

Manufacturer assistance is help available directly from the company that makes your medication. For these programs, you must be commercially insured, but there are typically no income guidelines. You could get help with the copay, coinsurance, or deductible costs for your prescription drugs. Some manufacturers even offer support for the out-of-pocket costs of infused drugs.

Foundation funding is offered by nonprofit organizations. Because these organizations rely on donations, the availability of funding can be unpredictable. In order to be eligible for help, you must meet income guidelines based on the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) and have immediate financial need. The grants can cover the out-of-pocket costs of your medication, insurance premiums, or travel costs and other treatment-related expenses. For both of these assistance options, benefits and eligibility vary for each program.

We can also help you find patient assistance programs (PAPs) that offer free or replacement medication. Typically these programs are intended to support uninsured people and those whose health plan does not cover a particular brand-name drug. You may also qualify if you are on Medicare but no foundation funding is available for your diagnosis. Depending on your condition, the free medication or replacement products can be shipped to the infusion center, doctor's office, or directly to your home.

For example, one of our clients asked us for help with lowering the cost of her Tymlos and Trulicity medications. Without insurance, Tymlos can cost \$1800 or more per injection pen, and each pen only contains 30 doses. The client's Medicare Part D covered some costs, but she was still paying \$500 per month for Tymlos alone. Trulicity lists at \$800 per month, which added to her financial strain.

Fortunately, she qualified for manufacturer assistance programs in VIVOR for both medications. Through Together with Tymlos and Lilly Cares Foundation, our client gets her medications for free. She saves \$1300 each month.

If you need help with prescription drug costs, [contact our Consumer Assistance Program.](#)

Want more information on how we are combating high drug costs? Email our Policy Manager, Hope Stonner, at hstonner@cohealthinitiative.org to get involved and subscribe to our newsletter. If you have a story about how high drug costs have impacted your life or your loved ones that you would like to share, [share your story](#) or reach out to chat with us. We are always looking for advocates and leaders like you to join our efforts and help us advance health equity—we'd love to hear from you!