



Prescription Assistance Options

An Informational Fact Sheet



LOCAL HELP FOR PEOPLE WITH MEDICARE

1-800-963-5337

SHINE, The Florida Department of Elder Affairs

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Prescription drug medications are prescribed every day to millions of our nation's elderly. Many of these medications, along with new drugs on the market, allow individuals to maintain a more independent lifestyle. An elder's quality of life may depend on whether or not they take medications on a regular basis. The following information is provided to help Florida's elders and their caregivers make informed choices about prescription drug assistance.

Program of the Department of Elder Affairs. Trained volunteers provide free and unbiased prescription assistance counseling and uphold consumer confidentiality. Contact: Elder Helpline at **1-800-963-5337** and ask for the **Sunshine for Seniors** program. Email: sunshineseniors@elderaffairs.org

Other Patient Assistance Programs:

PPARX <https://www.pparx.org>

PHRMA <http://www.phrma.org>

Needy Meds <http://www.needy meds.com>

NORD (National Organization for Rare Disorders) <http://www.rarediseases.org>

What's Inside

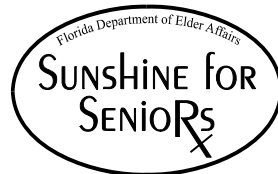
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Community Health Care Centers and Rural Health Clinics

Community Health Care Centers are located statewide and accept Medicare assignment. Medicare beneficiaries will find the following benefits: Medicare annual \$131 (Part B) deductible is usually waived; traditional benefits such as lab services and X-rays, on-site pharmacy services and dispensing of drugs are offered by most centers; and dental services and other health care related services are provided. Income eligible seniors receive services for free or on a sliding scale. Centers are staffed by board certified/eligible physicians and are open to anyone needing medical services.

For beneficiaries living in rural areas, **Rural Health Clinics** offer basically the same benefits listed above with the exception that the Part B deductible is not waived. To find the location of your local Community Health Care Center or Rural Health Clinic, call the **Elder Helpline at 1-800-963-5337**.

Sunshine for Seniors Program



The Florida **Sunshine for Seniors** program helps eligible seniors (age 60 and older) or disabled Medicare beneficiaries take advantage of prescription assistance through existing pharmaceutical patient assistance and retail discount programs. These programs offer prescription drugs at reduced prices and in some cases at no cost to eligible individuals. The Sunshine for Seniors program will help them locate a pharmaceutical assistance program, and when needed, assist them with the application process.

Eligibility requirements:

- > You are age 60 or older, or disabled
- > You need help affording your prescription drug costs

Sunshine for Seniors is administered through the SHINE (Serving Health Insurance Need of Elders)

Medicaid Assistance



Some Medicaid programs help pay for premiums, deductibles and coinsurance for certain people who have a limited income and are entitled to **Medicare**. These programs are entitled: Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB), Special Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary (SLMB), and Qualifying Individuals 1 (QI-1). For

more information on these programs and eligibility for other Medicaid prescription drug services or programs, call the Elder Helpline at **1-800-963-5337** and ask for your local **Department of Children & Families** office.

Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage



Medicare now requires all beneficiaries to have some type of creditable prescription coverage. This may be accomplished through an approved employer group plan or other insurance, a Medicare Part D stand-alone Prescription Drug Plan (PDP), or a Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug Plan (MAPD). For assistance with comparing plans, contact the **SHINE** program by dialing the Elder Helpline at **1-800-963-5337**. If you have a limited income, you may also be eligible for extra-help saving on plan premiums, deductibles, and co-payments. Contact your local **Social Security** office, or visit their website at: <http://www.socialsecurity.gov> to apply.

FREE Assistance for the Uninsured

There are a variety of patient assistance programs available to assist individuals without prescription coverage to save on their medications, no matter their age or income. Program options provide drugs at reduced prices, and in some cases, at no cost to eligible individuals. Coordination is achieved through a physician, community health center, or pharmacy.

Help is available to research all pharmaceutical assistance programs (PAPs) through the **Sunshine for Seniors** program. For free assistance, contact a Sunshine for Seniors counselor by dialing the Elder Helpline at **1-800-963-5337**.

Foreign Discounts

A word of caution – Federal regulators say it is illegal to import prescription drugs when the government cannot guarantee their safety. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) reports that Canada or Mexico could become entries for lesser-quality drugs seeking access to the U.S. There are no protections that assure your rights or safety. Individuals acquiring medications in this manner also risk having

their drugs confiscated by a U.S. customs agent. Please consider the discount programs offered in the U.S. before looking at unregulated programs from other countries.

Military Programs

VA Health Care - Veterans benefits are available to individuals who have served in the U.S. Military with an honorable discharge. Prescription drugs are dispensed at a cost of \$8.00 per prescription. Contact: VA Benefits Office at 1-877-222-8387 or visit: <http://www.myhealthvet.va.gov/MHV.portal> and click on "Benefits & Services."

TRICARE - TRICARE offers a health care plan for personnel who have **retired** from the Army, Navy and Air Force. Senior pharmacy benefits are included in their coverage. You must be eligible for Medicare Part A, enrolled in Part B, and registered in DEERS to receive all benefits. Information may be found on their websites at <http://www.tricare.osd.mil> or <http://www.humana-military.com>. To speak to someone directly, call the TRICARE Service Center at 1-800-444-5445 or the Health Care Information Line at 1-800-333-5331.

Need Help?

The Department of Elder Affairs does not endorse any of the prescription drug assistance programs or discount services listed on this fact sheet but provides this information as a resource for Medicare consumers.

For assistance with information on this fact sheet or other Medicare benefits, rights and options, contact the Florida **SHINE (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders)** Program by calling the Elder Helpline at **1-800-963-5337** or visit our web site at: <http://www.FloridaSHINE.org>. Please ask for a **SHINE Counselor**, and you will be put in touch with one of our volunteers offering free counseling and information on Medicare, Medicaid and other health insurance issues. **SHINE** is funded by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), the federal Medicare agency (1-800-633-4227 or visit their website at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov>).