



**Partnership for
Prescription Assistance**

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: *What is the Partnership for Prescription Assistance?*

A: The Partnership for Prescription Assistance is a nationwide program bringing together America's biopharmaceutical research companies, doctors, other health care providers, patient advocacy organizations, and community groups to help qualifying patients who lack prescription coverage get the medicines they need through the public or private program that's right for them.

Through a toll free number and user-friendly website, the Partnership for Prescription Assistance offers a single point of access to more than 475 public and private patient assistance programs, including more than 180 programs offered by pharmaceutical companies.

Many patients are eligible for public programs based on their age or income. Some patients in need qualify for private programs that offer prescription medicines for free or nearly free. The mission of the Partnership for Prescription Assistance is to increase awareness of these programs and boost enrollment of those who are eligible.

Q: *Who are the partners in the Partnership for Prescription Assistance?*

A: America's biopharmaceutical research companies have partnered with doctors, other health care providers, patient advocacy organizations, and community groups to launch the Partnership for Prescription Assistance. The list of partners is growing and already includes well-known national organizations and a fast-growing list of state-based partners.

Q: *How does the Partnership for Prescription Assistance relate to the Partnership for Prescription Assistance of Georgia?*

A: The Partnership for Prescription Assistance of Georgia is the state-based chapter of the nationwide program. The initiative is being brought to all 50 states, and has the support of partners at both the national and state level. Every state is different and we want to find the best way to reach people who need help in every state. That's why our local partners here in Georgia are taking the lead in introducing the Partnership for Prescription to the citizens of Georgia.

Q: *Why was the Partnership for Prescription Assistance of Georgia created?*

A: A growing number of patients in Georgia do not have insurance coverage for prescription medicines and other health care services. In order to boost awareness and enrollment in existing patient assistance programs, America's biopharmaceutical research companies and the doctors, other health care providers, patient advocacy organizations, and community groups who help eligible patients enroll in patient assistance programs decided that much more needed to be done.

Q: *Why do patients in Georgia need the Partnership for Prescription Assistance?*

A: Many people lack health insurance coverage and have trouble affording the prescription



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medicines and health care services they need. In Georgia, nearly 1 million people make less than 200% of the federal poverty level and are uninsured. The Partnership for Prescription Assistance is dedicated to helping patients like these receive the prescription medicines they need through the private or public program that's right for them.

Q: *Who qualifies for assistance?*

A: Many people in Georgia are already benefiting from patient assistance programs – but we know there are so many more who could be helped. Each patient assistance program available through the Partnership for Prescription Assistance has its own eligibility criteria.

Patients who do not have prescription coverage and are having trouble affording their medicines should call the Partnership for Prescription Assistance at **1-888-4PPA-NOW (1-888-477-2669)** or visit www.pparx.org to see if they may be eligible for one or more programs. Patients with questions about specific programs may be transferred directly to the company sponsoring that program.

Q: *How can patients enroll in a program accessible through the Partnership for Prescription Assistance?*

A: Enrollment is easy. Patients can call the toll-free number – **1-888-4PPA-NOW (1-888-477-2669)** – or visit the www.pparx.org. For those who call, a trained specialist will ask a short series of questions, provide initial feedback, and help patients identify the specific programs for which they may qualify. The specialists also make the application process easy by helping patients fill out the application forms. Similar information and assistance are available on the Web site. In addition to handling calls from English and Spanish speaking callers, the call center will be able to take calls from people speaking approximately 150 other languages.

Q: *What information do patients need when they contact the Partnership for Prescription Assistance?*

A: Patients should be ready to provide: age, state of residence and ZIP code, estimated gross annual household income, number of people living in their household, brand name of the prescription medicines they are currently taking or have been prescribed, and, if applicable, any type of health insurance and/or prescription coverage for which they are eligible. All responses to these questions are completely confidential.

Q: *Can patients access the Partnership for Prescription Assistance of Georgia online?*

A: Yes. Patients can visit www.pparx.org – the program's national Web site. Online users will be prompted to answer a short series of questions and will get feedback on their potential to qualify for a program. They will also get information about application processes and can begin filling out applications online.

Q: *What happens next if a patient appears to qualify for one or more*



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assistance programs?

A: A patient who may qualify will receive information about application processes and appropriate applications by mail. The applications will show the information the patient provided on the phone. Web site visitors can print out their applications after providing information online. The patient must provide any remaining required information and bring the forms to his or her doctor's office. The doctor must sign the form and provide specific prescription information (or simply attach the prescriptions themselves). Depending on the program, either the patient or the doctor should mail the forms to the company sponsoring the specific program.

Q: How long does it take for qualified patients to receive their medicines?

A: Although each patient assistance program has its own timeline, the companies involved in the Partnership for Prescription Assistance are committed to getting medicines to eligible patients as quickly as possible. Patients may contact the organization sponsoring a specific patient assistance program to ask when they will receive their medicines. Trained specialists at the Partnership for Prescription Assistance call center may provide patients with program-specific contact information and, in some cases, may transfer patients directly to the company sponsoring a particular program.

Q: How should patients expect to receive their medicines?

A: Depending on the program, the prescription medicines are either sent to the health care provider's office or to the patient's home. Some patient assistance programs mail a pharmacy card to patients. Patients can use these cards to get their medicines at local pharmacies.

Q: How long can patients expect to get free or nearly free medication from programs available through the Partnership for Prescription Assistance?

A: Each specific patient assistance program accessed through the Partnership for Prescription Assistance has its own enrollment and renewal requirements. The specifics of each program will be included in the information packet sent to the patient in the mail. Many programs require patients to reapply periodically.

Q: Can Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries qualify?

A: Each patient assistance program has its own eligibility criteria. Some programs provide prescription assistance for Medicare beneficiaries who do not have full prescription drug benefits. People who are enrolled in other publicly and privately sponsored programs that include prescription coverage may not be eligible for assistance. There are some instances in which Medicaid beneficiaries may be eligible for certain patient assistance programs.

Q: How does this relate to the new Medicare drug discount card?



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A: Medicare-eligible patients who call or visit the Web site are provided information on how they can apply for the interim Medicare-Approved Drug Discount Card that is the first phase in the implementation of the new drug benefit for Medicare beneficiaries.

Q: *What happens when the full Medicare drug benefit becomes available?*

A: Later in 2005, as enrollment begins for the new Medicare prescription drug benefit, the Partnership for Prescription Assistance of Georgia plans to provide Medicare-eligible patients who call or visit the Web site with information on how they can apply for this new benefit, which is available to all 40 million Medicare beneficiaries.

Q: *Are non-citizens eligible?*

A: Each patient assistance program has its own eligibility criteria. In addition to prescription benefits status, household income, and household size, some programs may ask for citizenship status. All responses to these questions are completely confidential.

Q: *What role do health care providers play in the Partnership for Prescription Assistance of Georgia?*

A: Doctors and other health care professionals play a crucial role in spreading the word that qualifying patients who lack prescription coverage can get the medicines they need through the public or private program that's right for them.

Doctors and other health care providers may also be responsible for signing patient application forms, adding prescription information or an actual prescription, and, depending on the program, potentially mailing or faxing the application to the sponsoring company on the patient's behalf.

Q: *How does the Partnership for Prescription Assistance spread the word about the program in Georgia?*

A: The Partnership for Prescription Assistance is sponsoring an unprecedented campaign to get the message out to patients who may be eligible. This effort includes local events in states across the country; national television, radio and print advertising; and state-specific brochures and posters that educate patients about the program.

Q: *How long will this program last?*

A: The Partnership for Prescription Assistance is an ongoing, nationwide initiative that is committed to helping qualifying patients who lack prescription coverage get the medicines they need through the public or private program that's right for them.

Q: *How many people living in Georgia are eligible?*

A: Each patient assistance program has its own eligibility criteria. The Partnership for Prescription Assistance encourages people who do not have prescription drug coverage and are having trouble paying for their medicines to call 1-888-4PPA-NOW (1-888-477-2669) or visit www.pparx.org to see if they may be eligible for one or more programs. (Note: there



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Nearly 1 million people in Georgia are uninsured and below 200% of the federal poverty level. Many of these people may qualify for prescription assistance.

200% Federal Poverty Level Income Allocation by Household Size	
<i>Household size</i>	<i>Yearly household income</i>
Single	Under \$19,000
Two-person	Under \$25,000
Three-person	Under \$31,000
Four-person	Under \$38,000