

Medicare patients:

How to choose a drug discount card

You don't have to get a drug discount card but it might save you money. There are many drug discount cards. Pick a card that covers your medicine and that your drug store takes. Want to see which Medicare approved cards might save you money at your drug store? Here's how.

1. Get out your medicine.

- You need to know the name of each medicine and how much you take. This is written on the medicine label that has your name on it.



2. Call Medicare for free at 1-800-633-4227.

If you can't get them, call 1-877-801-0044.

- Tell them you want help with "drug savings".
- Tell them the name and address of the drug store you want to use. It is on the medicine label that has your name on it. Not sure which drug store you will use? Ask Medicare to check drug stores close to where you live.
- They will ask which medicines you take and how much. This is on the medicine label with your name on it.
- You will also need to know how much you pay now for each medicine.

IMPORTANT!



You may be able to get a card that has better prices **and** helps pay for medicine. When you call Medicare, ask if you qualify for a card that helps pay. If you apply by March 31, 2005, your card may pay **\$600** on your medicine. If you apply later, your card will pay less. When your card pays, you will still have to pay some of the cost. The most you will pay is 10% of each drug.

3. Medicare will tell you which drug cards will save you the most money.

If you want a card, choose the one you want. You can only have one Medicare approved card at a time.

- Some drug cards are free. Some charge a fee. The most you have to pay for a Medicare approved drug card is \$30 a year. Medicare can tell you what the fee is for each card.

4. Apply for the drug card you want.

- Medicare can send you the papers to apply by mail.
- Want to apply by phone? You have to call the drug card company. Medicare can give you the phone number.
- Did Medicare say you can get the \$600? To get the \$600 you **must** get a special application and apply by mail. Ask Medicare or the drug company to send you the papers.



WARNING! At any time, the drug card company can change what medicines they cover. They can also change the price of your medicine at any time. But you can't change drug discount cards until the end of the year.