

Rx CONNECTOR

A publication of the North Dakota Insurance Department

HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUM ASSISTANCE NOW AVAILABLE

Patient Services Incorporated (PSI) is a non-profit organization primarily dedicated to providing health insurance premium assistance, pharmacy co-payment assistance and co-payment waiver assistance for persons with specific expensive chronic illnesses.

Established in February 1989, PSI has developed into a national organization serving 50 states. Its services are made possible through private/corporate donations and grants. Families requiring assistance in the purchasing/maintaining of COBRAs, high risk insurance pools, conversion policies and open enrollment health insurance plans are given assistance based on the severity of medical and financial need.

Families affected by the illnesses listed below are

eligible to apply, regardless of income:

- Alpha1-antitrypsin Deficiency
- Bone Health - Bone Metastases
- Chronic Myeloid Leukemia
- Chronic Myelocytic Leukemia
- Chronic Renal Insufficiency
- Kidney Failure
- Fabry Disease
- Enzyme Deficiency Disease
- Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumors
- Growth Hormone Deficiency
- Endocrine Disorder
- Hemophilia
- Hepatitis C
- MPS-1 - Hurler/Scheie - Enzyme Deficiency Disease
- Primary Immune Deficiency - Immune System Disorder

Continued on next page...

Welcome to the RxConnector newsletter!



This newsletter is designed to keep you up to date about the Prescription Connection for ND program and to keep you in the know about the various prescription assistance programs that are available. In addition, from time to time, we may also include other items of interest related to Medicare and the Senior Health Insurance Counseling (SHIC) program.

We've got a busy schedule this fall with many outreach events planned. Please visit our event calendar at <http://www.nd.gov/ndins/consumer/details.asp?ID=238> to find out where we will be and when.

If you have items of interest that you think should be included in this newsletter, we would love to hear about them! Please contact Sharon St. Aubin by email at sstaubin@nd.gov or call her toll free at 888.575.6611.

As always, thanks for all your hard work for both the SHIC and Prescription Connection programs!

**Contact the
Department:**

**1.888.575.6611
insurance@nd.gov
www.state.nd.us/ndins**

**NORTH
DAKOTA**
a program of the
North Dakota
Insurance Department

**Prescription
Connection**
for North Dakota

Continued from first page...

- Solid Organ Transplant Anti-Rejection Therapy

Other illnesses covered will soon be announced.

Contact the office staff at 800-FON-PSI 1 (800-366-7741) to discuss your concerns and request an application. Upon receipt of a completed application, you will be informed as to how PSI may assist you. If approved, assistance will be granted for a maximum of two years pending availability of PSI funding. Should you require assistance beyond the two-year period, you must contact PSI and submit a new application.

SHIC ~ NEW COUNSELOR TRAINING

Tuesday, October 3-5, 2006

We are seeking energetic and dedicated volunteers to help with our statewide efforts to educate seniors and the disabled about Medicare Part D and to assist with our upcoming signup period, which is November 15 to December 31. Please contact Bill Lardy at 701.328.9604 or blardy@nd.gov for more information.

BRISTOL MEYERS SQUIBB MAKES MAJOR CHANGES

There are going to be MAJOR changes to the BMS PAP. Effective 9/1/06 they will no longer be offering the following meds to NEW patients. (Thankfully they will continue with anyone that is on their program already and will be accepting the apps right up to the final date)

The meds they will be discontinuing for new patients are as follows:

- Blenoxane
- BUSPAR DIVIDOSE
- Cefzil
- GLUCOPHAGE, GLUCOPHAGE XR, GLUCOVANCE
- Ifex
- Lac-Hydrin
- Megace OS
- Mesnex
- Metaglip
- MONOPRIL
- Mutamycin
- Paraplatin
- SINEMIT
- Taxol
- Ultravate
- Vepesid, and
- Videx.

MALLINCKRODT PHARMACEUTICALS HAS PATIENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

All strengths of the following drugs will be available at a 40% discount upon acceptance to the program. Brand name medications include Anafranil capsules, Pamelor Capsules and Solution, Restoril Capsules, Tofranil Tablets and Tofranil PM Capsules. The generic medication that is available is Imipramine Pamoate USP.

Eligibility Guidelines and Notes

The patient must have no prescription coverage for the medication and meet income guidelines that are not disclosed. If accepted, the patient must pay a co-pay of 60% of the cost of the name brand medication. No decision has been made about patients who are eligible for Medicare Part D but have not enrolled. The patient should still apply.

Application Process

With the patient's permission, anyone concerned can call for an application. The application

can be either faxed or mailed out. The completed application can be faxed or mailed back. The patient is notified of eligibility for the program.

Program Details

The patient is sent a pharmacy card to be used once a month. Once a year the application process must be repeated.

PRICE COMPARISON WEBSITES

At times people call for assistance with medications that are not available through the prescription assistance programs. However, it may be to their advantage to check other pharmacies.

The following website will do price comparisons:

<http://www.medicarerights.org/rxframeset.html>

We cannot guarantee that all comparisons are accurate; however the patient may call the pharmacy to verify the prices and quality of medications.