

# RxCONNECTOR

A publication of the North Dakota Insurance Department

## DIABETES EDUCATION PRODUCTS

1) **BD Diabetes** has complimentary education products and "Getting Started Take Home Kits for Syringes & Pen Needles", as well as syringes, that are available for your clinic and/or practice at no charge. To order, visit [www.bddiabetes.com](http://www.bddiabetes.com). The phone number for the BD Insulin Syringe Program is 866.818.6906. BD also has a program that will provide a three-month supply of syringes for \$15.00.

2) **NeedyMeds** is now able to help clinics that serve low and no income clients obtain free diabetic supplies and over-the-counter medications. The products provided are new, although some of the packaging may be damaged. The provider of the supplies

guarantees the products are in good condition and function as designed. The products are sent to clinics only. Individuals are not eligible to participate in this program. Supplies available:

- Diabetic Supplies
- Over-the-Counter Medications

To participate, clinics must meet the following criteria:

- Be a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, an educational institution; or
- Run by a governmental agency; provide direct services on site treatment to patients; and have a

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### Welcome to the RxConnector newsletter!



Jim Poolman  
Insurance Commissioner

Dear Friends,

*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.*

*As always, thank you so much for all that you do for the Prescription Connection program! Without your help, our work would be that much harder. Your efforts are valued and appreciated!*

*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 [ssaubin@nd.gov](mailto:ssaubin@nd.gov) or call her toll free at 888.575.6611.*

Jim Poolman  
Insurance Commissioner

**Contact the  
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a program of the  
North Dakota  
Insurance Department

**Prescription  
Connection**  
for North Dakota

licensed healthcare provider (MD, DO, PA, RN, Nurse Practitioner, or pharmacist) available to receive and distribute the supplies.

NeedyMeds will email the clinics when items are available. Each clinic will email its request for supplies. NeedyMeds will determine which items are sent to each clinic. The products will be directly from the donor's facility. For more information, visit NeedMeds website: [http://](http://www.needymeds.com/supplyassistance/sapintro.tml)

[www.needymeds.com/supplyassistance/sapintro.tml](http://www.needymeds.com/supplyassistance/sapintro.tml)

3) **Eli Lilly** is introducing the first insulin pen with a memory chip to track doses. The pen will cost approximately \$100.00 (not including the insulin cartridges) and the company said that it will provide coupons for consumers to purchase the pen for \$45.00. For more information on the product, see: <http://newsroom.lilly.com/ReleaseDetail.cfm?ReleaseID=230738>

## RX OUTREACH

RxOutreach has added Tier 3 medications. These medications include the Bupropion HCL tablet (brand name Wellbutrin), the Cilostazol tablet, the Finasteride table (brand name Proscar), the Phenytoin Sodium capsule (brand name Dilantin), and the Propafenone HCL tablet (brand name Rhythmol).

The new RxOutreach application has been changed to add this information. The cost for a 90-day supply of a Tier 3 medication is \$40.00.

**A Senior Center Health Day will be held on April 24, 2007 at the Bismarck Senior Center at 315 N. 20th Street.**

The Senior Health Insurance Counseling (SHIC) Program will have an information booth. If you are interested in receiving information about Medicare, Medicare Part D, or Medicare Advantage Plans, stop by from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm.

## WEBMD OFFERS SAFETY INFORMATION FOR PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

Search for prescription and over-the-counter medications by brand or generic name on this user friendly website at <http://www.webmd.com/drugs/index-drugs.aspx>.

The information is intended to supplement, not substitute for the expertise and judgment of

healthcare professionals.

For each medication on this site, the pronunciation of the medication is listed as well as the uses, side effects, precautions, interactions and overdose information.

## PATIENTS NEED TO DISCUSS MEDICATION COSTS

Derjung Mimi Tarn, an assistant professor of family medicine at UCLA's [David Geffen School of Medicine](http://www.ucla.edu/med/schoolofmedicine) said, "It is up to the patient to make the physician and pharmacist aware" (that their prescription drug costs are too high for them to afford.)

In a study published in the *American Journal of Managed Care*, Tarn found that one-

third of doctors discussed cost, insurance supply, refills or cheaper generics with patients when writing prescriptions. The study also found that 2% of patients questioned their doctors about their options. Tarn said, "Physicians aren't always aware of patient costs and patients are often intimidated or embarrassed to talk about costs with their physician" (Bookwalter, *Los Ange-*

*les Times*, 3/19).

If your facility sends a newsletter to people who may be purchasing medications, perhaps including an article encouraging patients to talk with their physicians and pharmacists about their financial needs regarding the prescriptions they have been prescribed would be beneficial.

## COUPONS FOR BABIES

Some individuals who are having difficulty paying for prescriptions may be able to spend less on food for their babies and use the savings for prescriptions. Gerber offers a

variety of special promotions. To download coupons, go to

[www.gerber.com/promotions](http://www.gerber.com/promotions)  
or  
[www.gerber.com/coupons](http://www.gerber.com/coupons).

People without computers or internet access are able to receive coupons by calling 1.800.443.7237. Coupons should arrive the same week the phone call is placed.

## HEARING AID ASSISTANCE

For assistance with hearing aids, contact Hear Now at [www.sotheworldmayhear.org/hearnow/](http://www.sotheworldmayhear.org/hearnow/). They charge a small fee for processing and may also refurbish hearing aids. Other sources of referral include rehabilitation services for independent living and the Lions Club.

## NEW BLOOD PRESSURE MEDICATION AVAILABLE

Novartis is introducing Tekturna in a new once-a-day medication for high blood pressure. Tekturna is the first FDA-approved drug in a new class of high blood pressure drugs called renin inhibitors.

## PAPS FOR MEDICARE PART D ENROLLEES

A reminder that four pharmaceutical companies have specific PAPs for Medicare Part D enrollees:

- AZ Medicine and Me (AstraZeneca; all medications);
- Renagel Part D PAP (Genzyme; Renagel only);
- GSK Access (GlaxoSmithKline; all medications); and
- Lilly Answers (Eli Lilly; Forteo, Humulin and Zyprexa only).

## IVAX ADDS NEW PROGRAMS

IVAX (now part of Teva) has added new programs to their PAP services. Carmen of the Volunteers in Medicine Clinic in Oregon reports that the program will cover 2 QVAR every 60 days and 1 Nasarel every 60 days.

The important thing is to write the script for the quantity covered. For instance, if you only write a

script for 1 QVAR, the patient will not be able to get any more until after the 60 day period.

To help navigate the phone system, Carmen has created worksheets which are posted at: [www.rxassist.org/providers/listserv.cfm](http://www.rxassist.org/providers/listserv.cfm)

## ADULT DIAPERS AVAILABLE

Adult diapers are covered by Medicaid in several states, with a script for the diapers indicating the reason for the incontinence. In addition, some disease specific organizations such as the Cancer Fund of America (see [www.cfoa.org/](http://www.cfoa.org/)

[itemlist1.htm](#)) and the Alzheimer's association will assist patients with these supplies. Those communities with PASSPORT programs in their Area Agency on Aging may be able to help as well. (PASSPORT uses federal and

state funds, through a Medicaid waiver, to pay for services like personal care, homemaker services, home delivered meals, minor home modification and repairs, medical equipment, and emergency response systems.)