

Comparison Shopping

Compare Prices at Safe Pharmacies

Many consumers are largely unaware that prices for medications differ from pharmacy to pharmacy, city to city, and state to state. For patients taking multiple prescription drugs, take your entire list of medications to local pharmacies or call them to find the best total price at *one* pharmacy. It may take some time, but it is worth the wait. Using one pharmacy, and developing a relationship with your pharmacist, is the safest way to check for drug interactions, duplications and possible side effects—and get the best value for your money.

Savings Online

VIPPS—The Key to Safe Online Shopping

Buying online requires consumers to exercise a tremendous amount of caution. The VIPPS online pharmacy seal is awarded to sites that have complied with criteria on patient privacy, authentication and security of orders, quality assurance, and provision of meaningful consultation between patients and pharmacists. If you are going to search for pharmacies on the Web, always start by going to the VIPPS page at www.vipps.info.

PillBot.com

This service was created to assist consumers in obtaining competitive pricing when shopping for online prescriptions and reviews deals from a variety of online pharmacies. **Make sure to choose a VIPPS-certified pharmacy!** Visit www.pillbot.com or call 1-800-505-7279 for additional information.

DestinationRx.com

DestinationRx is drug price comparison Web site where you can search for the lowest price for your prescription medicine by zip code—**just make sure to choose a VIPPS-certified pharmacy!** Its therapeutic alternative tool can help you identify other medications available to treat your condition about which you can ask your healthcare provider. Visit www.destinationrx.com for more information.

General Savings Ideas

Ask About Generics

Generic drugs offer savings of 25-50 percent over brand name drugs. Ask your doctor or pharmacist if there are any risks for you in switching from your current prescription to a generic and if a generic medicine will work for you.

Samples

When your doctor prescribes a medication, ask if the office has any samples provided by pharmaceutical companies.

Senior Discounts

If you're 65 years or older, many pharmacies offer a 10 percent discount off the top. Be sure to ask about it.

Ask About Options with Days & Doses

You might be able to save money by purchasing a 90-day supply of your medicine instead of a 30-day supply. Also, your doctor and pharmacist might be able to prescribe higher-dosage pills that can be split.

NOTE: Never split pills without talking to your pharmacist!

The Partnership for Safe Medicines

is a coalition of patient, physician, pharmacist, university, industry and other professional organizations committed to the safety of prescription drugs and protecting consumers against unapproved, counterfeit, substandard, mishandled or otherwise unsafe medicines. Learn more about the dangers of contraband and counterfeit drugs at www.safemedicines.org or contact us at info@safemedicines.org.

SAFE Savings



The Partnership for
SAFEMEDICINES

8100 Boone Blvd., Suite 220
Vienna, VA 22182
www.SafeMedicines.org

Safety First!

Americans are searching for less expensive medication, but also want assurance that the drugs upon which they rely are safe, untainted and regulated to ensure quality.

Recent reports show that Americans looking for better prices on prescription drugs don't have to look far. Smart shoppers with the right information can buy what they need at a more affordable price AND avoid the serious safety risks that accompany purchasing imported medicine. This brochure provides a guide to finding savings from safe sources.

You and Your Pharmacist

Prescription medications are valuable technologies that literally affect how our bodies work. Making sure you are taking the right ones and taking them correctly is critically important. Sitting down with your pharmacist should be the first step to medicine safety. Your pharmacist can review prescriptions and help protect you from negative drug interactions. Pharmacists can also advise on possible savings, like determining whether generic medications are appropriate and whether there are "over the counter" options that can work for you.



Government Programs Offer Help

Federal Help: The Medicare-Approved Drug Discount Card

Today, seniors and people with disabilities can save an estimated 10-25 percent off the cost of their drugs with a Medicare-approved drug discount card. Some low-income seniors might also qualify for an additional \$600 benefit for purchasing prescription drugs. Call **1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)** for more information.

State Programs: Look to the National Conference of State Legislatures

More than 30 states have programs that will give you discounts on prescription drugs, often for free. Visit www.ncsl.org/programs/health/pharm.htm to learn more about the various programs state legislatures have developed.



Private Companies Help, Too

A number of Web sites offer consumers information on private programs for lowering the cost of buying prescription drugs. Some of these sites include:

Partnership for Prescription Assistance

The Partnership for Prescription Assistance (PPA) helps match patients who cannot afford medication to prescription assistance programs that provide free or nearly free medicines to eligible patients. There are no charges associated with using PPA and almost all of the programs in our database offer their services free of charge. PPA 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. Visit www.pparx.org or call **1-888-4PPA-NOW (1-888-477-2669)** for information.

Rx Outreach

Rx Outreach is a prescription assistance program for more than 55 pharmaceutical companies managed by Express Scripts Specialty Distribution Services, Inc. (ESSDS), a fully-licensed mail order pharmacy. The program offers prescription generic medicines to uninsured individuals and families, as well as those who have limited prescription drug coverage. Visit www.rxoutreach.com or call **1-800-769-3880** to see if you qualify.

TogetherRxAccess.com

Log onto www.togetherrxaccess.com or call **1-800-444-4106** to learn more about this free prescription savings program for qualified enrollees, which provides savings on more than 300 FDA-approved prescription drugs. Cardholders can generally save about 25-40 percent on medicines for common conditions, including diabetes, hypertension, GERD, high cholesterol, cancer, allergies, asthma, arthritis and depression.