



## How to Save Money on Your Medications

### #1 Know Your Benefits

To save money on your prescription drugs, it's important to know how your prescription coverage works. Do you have an annual deductible on your prescription drugs? To save on high premiums, some patients choose plans with deductibles and copays that don't kick in until the deductible has been met. That means that you're responsible for paying for *all of your* prescription costs until you reach the deductible amount.

You also need to understand the copay system—where you pay for part of your medication. You may have one, flat-rate copay for all prescriptions. Or, your insurer may charge a percentage of the retail price as your copay. Some plans have tiered copays, with lower copays for cheaper drugs and generics, and higher copays for pricier and brand-name medications.

### #2 Know the Retail Price of Your Prescriptions

There are several sites—including [Pharmacy Checker](#), [WeRx.org](#), and [GoodRx](#) that provide the retail and discounted costs for drugs at your local pharmacies.

At each site, you'll enter the name of the drug, the dosage, the number of pills, and where you live. You'll get back information on what you can expect to pay for your specific prescriptions at pharmacies in your area, along with discount coupons or vouchers available at those pharmacies.

### #3 Research Generics

Generic medications may be available to you, but they are not the same as name brand medications, and may not have the same therapeutic use. Name brands tend to cost more, but you need to ask your doctor if a generic equivalent would work for you.

Take a look at generic drug lists like the [Walmart Generic Drug List](#) and [Costco Generic Drug List](#).

### #4 Be a Copay Expert

Copayment coupons are another way to find savings on medications. Visit the drug maker's website or call their assistance number. Sometimes a copay can go from \$300 to \$10 for a refill.

### #5 Take Advantage of Freebies

Save on your prescriptions by starting at your doctor's office, when you ask for free samples and coupons. Doctors usually have lots of free samples and coupons for certain medications. Visit [RxSaver](#), [GoodRx](#), [RetailMeNot](#), [GoodRx](#), and drug manufacturers websites for coupons.



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### #6 90-Day Prescriptions

If you're on lifetime medications, a 90-day prescription can save you money. The price for a 90-day supply may be less than the cost of three separate one-month prescriptions. If you're insured, you'll pay one copay instead of three (and only four for the whole year). If your copay is \$10, you will save \$80 a year per prescription, and at a \$30 copay, you would save \$240 a year per prescription.

### #7 Use Online and Mail-Order Prescription Refill Services

There are online companies that buy prescription medications from drug manufacturers and sell them directly to individuals at a discount such as [Health Warehouse and RxOutreach](#). [BlinkHealth](#) is a company where you can purchase your prescriptions online, and pick them up at your local retailer or through home delivery. Of note: **They also offer a price-match guarantee on generics.**

### #8 Check Out Prescription Assistance Programs

Prescription assistance programs (PAPs) are available from some pharmaceutical companies, as well as from some government organizations and programs. [Partnership for Prescription Assistance's Medicine Assistance Tool](#) is designed to help you if you are low-income, uninsured, or underinsured.

Some drug companies also have their own comprehensive programs. Check the drug manufacturer's website, or call their patient-assistance line for help.

### #9 Sign Up for Discount Clubs

Companies like [Drugs.com](#) offer free discount cards with savings up to 80% off some medications. There are also many discount programs specific to pharmacy chains, as well as some retail and grocery store chains with pharmacies. Check into a free membership in [Walgreens Prescription Savings Club](#) for discounts off the cash price of thousands of medications. Check with organizations like [American Association of Retired People \(AARP\)](#) that offers a great discount program too.

### #10 Get to Know Your Pharmacist

Pharmacists often have good advice and can inform you of many great discount programs, coupons and opportunities. Good ones will check the cash price against your insurance co-pay to see which is cheaper, or even call your insurance company to authorize a less expensive therapeutic alternative. Having a good relationship with your pharmacists can result in great savings!