

## REDUCING YOUR PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS

### Ways to Reduce your Prescriptions Drug Costs

1. Switch from Name Brand Drugs to Generics
  - Be sure to talk with your doctor *before* changing any medications!
2. Increase the Dosage and Cut the Medication in one-half
  - For example, if you are taking 50 mg of a medication, see if the doctor will write a script for 100 mg tablets and have you cut them in half. This will decrease your co-pays in half.
  - This will not work for all medications. Be sure to check with your doctor first!
3. Generics and Pharmacy Discounts
  - Check with your pharmacy to see if any of your drugs are offered on their discount lists. Many large pharmacies continue to expand their listings. Examples are Wal-Mart, Kroger, K-Mart, SAMS, and others.
  - There may be a small membership fee.
  - The cost of these drugs are outside of your Part D plan and the cost will NOT apply towards the donut hole and catastrophic levels.
  - Ask if there is any other discounts during the gap based on arrangements your Part D plan may have made with the pharmacy.

### Places to Contact for Assistance with your Prescription Drug Costs

1. Pharmaceutical Manufacturer
  - Many drug manufacturer have programs to discount or cover the cost of medications for those within a certain income level
  - Contact the Pharmaceutical Manufacturer to request any information
2. If you are a veteran, contact the VA
  - If you served in the military, you may qualify for significant reduction. Contact the VA for details and qualifications.
3. Bureau of Prescription Health
  - Service which seeks low or no cost drugs from drug manufacturers during the donut hole
  - Income qualifications are higher than normal
  - Contact Information:  
[www.freemedicine.com](http://www.freemedicine.com)  
573-996-3333
4. Prescription Assistance and Discount Programs Chart
  - Some are discount programs, others provide drugs from pharmaceutical manufacturers as no cost for those who qualify
  - For a copy of the chart, contact Illinois SHIP at 800-548-9034
5. Preachers' Aid Society and Benefit Fund
  - PASBF has budgeted money to assist those whose drug costs have caused a hardship
  - Applications can be found at [www.pasbf.org](http://www.pasbf.org) or by calling 217-529-3221

**Need Assistance Reducing your Prescription Drug Costs?  
Call the SHIP hotline at 1-800-548-9034 or PASBF at 217-529-3221.**