



Triangle Area Hindu Temples

Prescription Medications FAQ

medicareadvice@tahts.org

Community Support Group

TAHTS

If you have a specific need regarding your prescriptions and would like some advice, please contact medicareadvice@tahts.org. We have access to certified SHIP counselors and local pharmacists who speak in Hindi, Gujarati or English.

The purpose of this document is to provide answers to frequently asked questions (FAQ) as a way to guide seniors to acquire prescription medications when they currently do not possess adequate insurance to buy the medications. The reasons for this can be one of the following:

1. They are traveling to a new place where their insurance does not have coverage
2. They were newly prescribed a medication for which their current Medicare benefits does not cover the prescription
3. A senior who is visiting from abroad and do not have prescription coverage under their travel insurance.

I ran out of my medication and I urgently need my prescription medication. How can I get it?

Most generic, non-branded medications are available in a pharmacy for a reasonable cost. Check your local pharmacies for free list of medications – there are a handful of generic medications available at nominal cost. If your prescription medication is one of them, you are in luck.

Some stores such as Walgreens may carry your medication over the counter (OTC). If so, you can buy it without requiring prescription. The chances that this is the case is very low but does not hurt to try.

My prescription is a non-generic, branded medication. It is not listed in the free list of any pharmacy. What choice do I have?

If you are prescribed branded medication by your doctor or if the cost of the branded medication under your current insurance plan is very high, you can approach a pharmacist and request if a generic alternative (or combination of alternatives) is available. If such an alternative is available, you can call your doctor and request to change the prescription to the generic alternative. This way, you can procure the generic alternative from the pharmacy and potentially save a lot of money.

My branded prescription has no generic alternative. What can I do?

If you are prescribed a branded medication and do not have any generic alternatives, one way you can reduce your cost is by looking for coupons online. You can search on Google or coupon sites such as Goodrx, discountcard, etc. Then you can use these coupons at a local pharmacy. Certain single store pharmacies (not the chain pharmacies such as CVS, Walgreens) are more likely to honor such coupons and provide you the medication.

My branded prescription has no coupons available either. What is my last resort?

If you are in dire need of a prescription on a temporary basis, you can call up any friend who is a doctor or knows any doctors in the vicinity. Doctors usually get sample medications from drug companies. If any doctor in your friend network has some samples available, you may be able to get it free of cost. Note however, that this is just a temporary solution until you figure out the right insurance coverage to procure the drug on an ongoing basis.

Another alternative is to approach patient assistance programs run by charity organizations. They assess your needs and income level before providing the assistance.