

A Prescription for Health for the Uninsured: How to Get the Medicines You Need

(NAPSA)—All Americans want to stay healthy. We can make decisions about how we live that help us stay healthy. We can eat healthy food and exercise. We can go to the doctor. We can take the medicines prescribed for us. We can have the tests we need to check for diseases before they become serious.

If you have health insurance, you have help to be able to do many of these things. But if you don't, sometimes costs can get in the way. The U.S. Census Bureau says that 45 million people in America do not have health insurance. As a result, many wait until they are sick to get the care they need. Getting care only when you are sick makes it hard to be as healthy as you could be.

In this way, lack of health insurance harms both the patient and our health care system. U.S. taxpayers end up paying for the \$41 billion in costs that go with this kind of emergency care.

Helping the uninsured prevent disease can improve our nation's health. It will help improve the health of patients. It will decrease the costs to our health care system.

Prescription drugs are one of the best ways to prevent disease and to stay well. They can also lower the need for costly medical procedures. But people who don't have health insurance can't pay for the medicines they need.

If you do not have health insurance, there are programs that will safely provide medicines for free or at real savings to you and your family. Here is what you can do:

Shop Around: There are Web sites where you can compare



prices and save on medicines. For instance, the New York Attorney General's office has **www.NYAGRx.org**. The Maryland Attorney General's office has **www.oag.state.md.us**.

Do Your Research: **www.pparx.org** lists all the programs that drug companies have for those most in need.

Savings at Any Income: Learn how to save on Pfizer prescription (Rx) drugs. Call Pfizer Helpful Answers™ at **1-866-706-2400**. Or log on to **www.pfizerhelpfulanswers.com**. Helpful Answers provides safe Pfizer prescription medicines for free or at real savings to all of America's uninsured.

"Anyone who needs a Pfizer medicine and does not have Rx insurance should call Helpful Answers," said Pat Kelly, president of Pfizer U.S. Pharmaceuticals.

Programs that help America's uninsured get the medicines they need are just one way to help us manage our health. But they aren't the only solution. All health care groups—private and public—need to work together to find a solution.