



spotlight on healthcare

Improving Access To Prescription Drugs

(NAPSA)—A unique initiative sponsored by America's pharmaceutical research companies is helping many of the millions of uninsured and financially struggling Americans who have problems getting the prescription medicines they need.

The Partnership for Prescription Assistance (PPA) is helping patients connect with programs that provide affordable prescription drugs, as well as clinics and health care providers in their communities. Since its launch just three years ago, the initiative has helped nearly 5 million people.

"No one's helped by a medicine that sits on the shelf and is out of reach financially. That's why the program is so important," says Billy Tauzin, president and CEO of the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA), which sponsors the PPA.

Finding Help

The program can be accessed at an easy-to-use Web site, www.pparx.org, or through a toll-free phone number (1-888-4PPA-NOW), where trained operators field calls in 150 languages.

The program also includes the "Help Is Here Express" bus tour. Buses are staffed by trained specialists who can quickly help uninsured or financially struggling patients access information on more than 475 patient assistance programs, including over 200 programs offered by pharmaceutical companies.

Fighting Chronic Disease

According to the Partnership to Fight Chronic Disease (PFCD),



A national initiative connects people with programs that provide affordable prescription drugs.

more than 133 million Americans suffer from at least one chronic disease. The group says it is imperative that these sufferers are not only aware of critical lifestyle issues such as the importance of diet and exercise, but also have access to the medicines they need. It's thought that PPA could help.

"By supporting the PPA, we want to help uninsured and financially struggling patients with chronic diseases get access to information on programs that offer free or nearly free prescription medicines," said Dr. Paul Antony, chief medical officer of PhRMA.

For more information on PPA, visit www.pparx.org or call 1-888-4PPA-NOW. For more information on the Partnership to Fight Chronic Disease, visit www.fightchronicdisease.org. For information on new medicines being developed to fight chronic and other diseases, visit www.PhRMA.org.