

Medicine For The Public

Prescription Programs Help Seniors Manage Costs

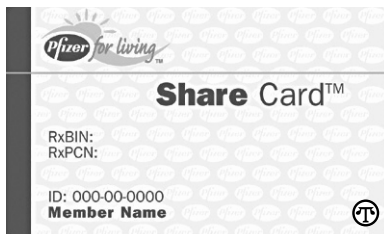
(NAPSA)—While some 16-million senior citizens enrolled in Medicare wait for Congress to pass a prescription drug benefit, learning about various public and private prescription assistance programs may help tide them over.

Many of these programs provide valuable help for low-income seniors trying to manage their health without prescription drug coverage.

For example, the Pfizer Share Card, launched in January 2002, enables qualified Medicare beneficiaries to purchase up to a 30-day supply of any Pfizer prescription medication for a flat fee of \$15 per prescription.

The medicines offered under the program include some of the most prescribed and effective treatments for a variety of illnesses associated with aging, such as arthritis, Alzheimer's, glaucoma, high cholesterol, high blood pressure and depression.

In addition to a consistent \$15 flat fee for Pfizer prescriptions, the card offers enrollees access to a 24-hour call center where consumers can learn about other health services and benefits within their state that they may



Prescription assistance programs offer common medications for a flat fee.

be eligible to take advantage of.

Applicants can also request free, easy-to-read health education information on 16 common medical conditions.

To date over 340,000 Medicare beneficiaries have enrolled in the program and more than 1.7 million prescriptions have been filled at 51,000 pharmacies nationwide that accept the Share Card.

Seniors who want to learn more about various industry-sponsored prescription assistance programs can call the National Council on Aging at 1-202-479-1200 or can visit their Web site at www.benefitscheckup.org.

For more information about the Pfizer Share Card call 1-800-717-6005.