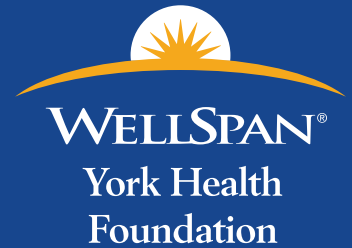


When Medication Costs Become Insurmountable

Prescription for Caring is stopping the cycle of ill health through prescription payment assistance.



Imagine if you...

- Had to choose between buying groceries or paying for your medication.
- Took half doses of a needed medication to make your prescriptions last longer.
- Missed work because you became ill as a result of being unable to afford filling your prescription.

These scenarios represent reality for many individuals in **York County**. They make difficult choices every day about whether or not they can pay for their medication.



Doreen Woomer of York knows firsthand the struggle of paying for her medications.



Just one of many stories about how Prescription for Caring helps neighbors in need.

On disability and living with limited funds, Doreen Woomer of York knows firsthand the struggle of paying for her medications. "After I was laid off from my job in IT Security, I was diagnosed with several health issues, including diabetes," says Doreen. "With so many health bills piling up, I was finding I wasn't able to afford my medications."

Fortunately, help was available through the Prescription for Caring program. Established by the Healthy Community Network, a WellSpan led collaboration of community partners working to improve access to health care services for community members in need, Prescription for Caring assists people like Doreen to get their vital medications.

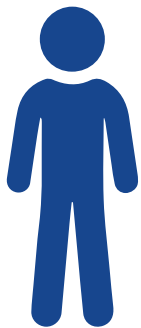
"I feel grateful, relieved and more at ease because of the help this program provides," shares Doreen.

It is a Challenging Cycle

Patients can't afford prescriptions, so they skip or split doses, which can lead to an Emergency Department visit or inpatient hospital stay, which means they miss work, resulting in less pay, making it even more unlikely they can pay for their needed medications.



Prescription for Caring program



has provided over
\$96,000
in support in 2018,
helping over
133 patients.

How it Works:

- Individuals must meet eligibility requirements based on specific financial criteria. A person eligible for state or federal insurance or employer insurance must pursue this first before being enrolled.
- Individuals who qualify for prescription assistance will not pay a dispensing fee but will pay an average of \$6 per prescription locally at a WellSpan pharmacy.
- Patients may receive assistance in completing applications to receive free brand-name medications for a limited time.
- Financial counselors are available to assist patients in enrolling in any insurance for which they may qualify.
- A disease management nurse makes phone calls to those with diabetes and COPD to help them understand the importance of taking their medications, monitoring their condition and modifying their behaviors for healthy living.

Medication Can Be Expensive

Consider these sobering statistics from a recent evaluation by WellSpan Pharmacy:



The cost of prescriptions and diabetic supplies (i.e., test strips, lancets, glucometer) for one person for one year is \$3,500 to \$5,000.



The cost for a 30-day supply of heart medications ranges from \$350 to \$1,200 for one medication – for those with insurance, the co-pay can range from \$40 to \$150.



The cost for a nebulizer for asthma or COPD ranges from \$50 to \$150 not including the medication that is used in it.

For more information about other vital community programs in York County, please contact:

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