

Best Rx Puts Participants First

These are challenging economic times. Too often in such circumstances services to constituents with needs are decreased or eliminated.

Although Ohio's Best Rx, like the rest of state government, has been affected by the current budget strain, our commitment to serve our participants is strong. We continually strive to think of innovative ways to save money for Ohioans.

This month, two program improvements went into effect that translate into money back into the consumers' hands. Changes include a \$.05 decrease in the administrative cost of each prescription filled through Ohio's Best Rx, as well as a five percent increase in the rebate amount offered on brand name medications of participating pharmaceutical companies. These brand name drugs are often among the most expensive medications.

This transition will be seamless for participants and will only be noticed as an additional savings when prescriptions are filled.

We are excited and confident that even during tough times we can still find ways to save money and improve the health of uninsured Ohioans.

Medicare Part D Open Enrollment Assistance

The Medicare Prescription Drug Program (Part D) enrollment process can be overwhelming. With only a 45-day window each year, such an important decision can be daunting to seniors and those with disabilities.

During the month of December, Best Rx staff, along with other Ohio Department of Aging personnel, volunteered time to help Ohio callers accessing the OSHIIP (Ohio Senior Health Insurance Information Program) Hotline.

Staff volunteered to answer calls, assisted Ohioans in researching options and enrolled callers in Part D programs for 2009.

Thanks to all at the Ohio Department of Aging staff who participated in this effort as well as the staff at OSHIIP for a thorough training and prompt response to issues and questions.

The Value of Outreach

During the summer and fall of 2008 Ohio's Best Rx participated in two outreach initiatives concentrated in 14 counties in northern Ohio.

Analysis of the enrollment numbers in those counties over a five-month period shows a steady increase of cardholders in all counties involved.

Warren County showed the most significant impact with a 31 percent overall increase in enrollment.

Quick Statistics

(Jan. 11, 2005 – Dec. 31, 2008)

- 423,775 individuals enrolled in Ohio's Best Rx
- 1,707,118 prescriptions filled by Ohio's Best Rx card users
- \$ 16,779,027 total saved by Ohio's Best Rx card users

Manufacturers Continue to Join Program

One way Ohio's Best Rx is able to assist Ohioans is due to the generosity of pharmaceutical manufacturers who voluntarily provide discounts and rebates on brand name drugs.

We are happy to welcome two additional manufacturers joining Ohio's Best Rx in the past quarter, Biovitrum and Inspire Pharmaceuticals.

Currently Best Rx has 22 manufacturers providing discounts on over 900 brand name drugs.

Please contact us...

...To include us in your community events,

...To get brochures for display and distribution, or

...To be added to our distribution list.

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