

Troubleshooting Inhaler Coverage and Cost Concerns

1. \$35 inhaler cap price -> Boehringer Ingelheim (the first to offer this plan!), AstraZeneca and GSK. In general, Medicaid and Medicare patients are ineligible. Contact drug reps & manufacturers if needed!

Boehringer Ingelheim \$35 program

\$35 offers main page:

<https://www.inhaleroffer.com/?cid=af:press-release:inhaleroffer:Jun12024:release>

Example card:



AstraZeneca \$35 program

\$35 offers main page:

<https://www.astrazeneca-us.com/respiratory-inhaler-affordability.html>

Example card:



GSK no more than \$35 offer

<https://gskforyou.com/programs/gsk-coupons-free-trials/>

Under “Dollars-Off Coupons” type the inhaler name in the search field, check eligibility and receive the coupon description below (abbreviated for ease of use). Card applies to all eligible inhalers from GSK:

ELIGIBLE COMMERCIALLY INSURED AND UNINSURED PATIENTS

PAY NO MORE THAN \$35*

ADVAIR DISKUS
(fluticasone propionate and salmeterol inhalation powder)

ANORO ELLIPTA
(umeclidinium and vilanterol inhalation powder)

BREO ELLIPTA
(fluticasone furoate and vilanterol inhalation powder)

Serevent Diskus
(salmeterol xinafoate inhalation powder)

Ventolin HFA
(albuterol sulfate)
inhalation aerosol

ADVAIR HFA
(fluticasone propionate and salmeterol) inhalation aerosol

ARNUITY ELLIPTA
(fluticasone furoate inhalation powder)

INCRUSE ELLIPTA
(umeclidinium inhalation powder)

TRELEGY ELLIPTA
(fluticasone furoate, umeclidinium, and vilanterol inhalation powder)

ELIGIBILITY: Patients may be eligible for this savings offer if they have commercial insurance and insurance does not cover the full cost of the prescription, or if they are not insured and are responsible for the cost of their prescriptions. Patients are not eligible for this program if they are covered by any federal or state prescription insurance program. This includes patients enrolled in Medicare Part B, Medicare Part D, Medicaid, Medigap, Veterans Affairs (VA), Department of Defense (DoD) programs or TRICARE. This may also include state pharmaceutical assistance programs and other federal or state plans not listed. Patients are also ineligible for this program if they are Medicare eligible and enrolled in an employer-sponsored group waiver health plan or government subsidized prescription drug benefit program for retirees. Patients enrolled in a state or federally funded prescription insurance program may not use this program even if they elect to be processed as an uninsured (cash-paying) patient. Those on Medicare Part D, even if in the coverage gap, are not eligible. Patients enrolled in private indemnity or HMO insurance plans that reimburse them for the entire cost of their prescription drugs are also not eligible. **This savings offer is not health insurance** and is restricted to residents of the United States, Puerto Rico, and US territories. Void where prohibited by law, taxed, or restricted.

Prescription Processing Information:

BIN#: 610524
GRP#: 50778191

PCN#: Loyalty
ID#: 1452273660

Offer Expires: 12/31/2025

- Present this coupon and, if applicable, your insurance card with your prescription for any of these products at any participating pharmacy.
- Eligible commercially insured patients will pay \$35 per inhaler.
- Eligible patients without insurance to cover the cost of their prescription will pay \$35 per inhaler.
- This offer is valid for up to 12 uses per product, and each inhaler counts as 1 use.
- This coupon may not be used by government beneficiaries, including those eligible for or enrolled in Medicare (see complete eligibility requirements below for information).
- This coupon is nontransferable. Duplicates of this uniquely coded coupon are invalid and not redeemable at the pharmacy.
- **This coupon is not health insurance.**
- If you use a mail-order pharmacy, please contact your pharmacy provider to ensure this offer will be accepted.
- This offer expires 12/31/2025.

invalid and not redeemable at the pharmacy. This savings offer is not conditioned on any past, present, or future purchase, including refills. This savings offer expires on 12/31/2025.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAM TERMS AND CONDITIONS: At its sole discretion and with or without notice, GSK or McKesson may reduce, eliminate, or otherwise modify the savings offer for any reason and at any time, including but not limited to if your commercial drug insurance plan imposes additional requirements which limits or prevents you from receiving coverage for your inhaler, only allows partial coverage for your inhaler, removes coverage for your inhaler and requires you to utilize the card, does not provide a material level of financial assistance for the cost of your inhaler, or does not apply program payments to satisfy your copayment, deductible, or coinsurance for your inhaler. You must meet the eligibility criteria, terms and conditions every time you use this savings offer.

Some insurance plans have established programs referred to as ‘accumulator adjustment’ or ‘copay maximum’ programs which require you to enroll in a manufacturer copay assistance program. As

2. Given [Medicaid](#) and Medicare patients are ineligible for the \$35 capped prices, navigate using standard Preferred Tiers on insurance formularies and Prior Authorizations, if applicable.

3. There are also co-pay card and patient assistance aggregators:

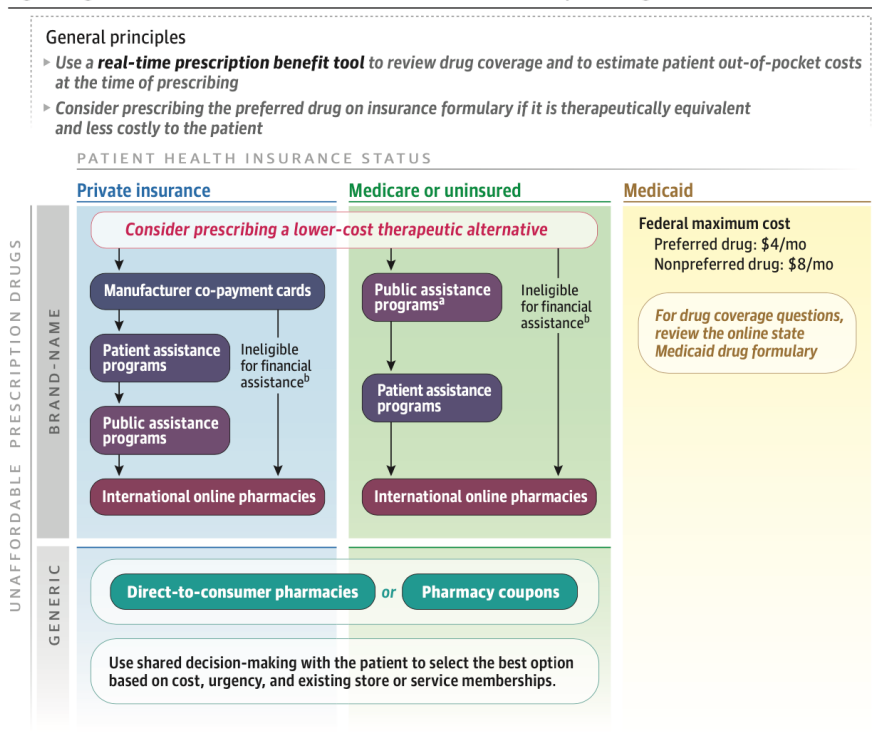
<https://www.needymeds.org/>

4. Your health system may have (or can implement) a team that focuses on securing income-based lower medication pricing, 340B discount pricing, etc.

5. General guidance on approaching high-cost prescription medications: JAMA article from November 2024 called “Strategies to Help Patients Navigate High Prescription Drug Costs” <https://shorturl.at/6LNzy>

Below are a couple of helpful graphics from the article. The first is a figure that provides a stepwise approach on navigating high prescription costs based on patient insurance coverage and brand versus generic medication. The second graphic is a table summarizing all of the different approaches to overcoming cost-related barriers to prescription drugs.

Figure. Algorithm for How to Assist Patients With Unaffordable Prescription Drug Costs



^aPatients eligible for their state's Medicaid program or those with Medicare Part D coverage who qualify for low-income subsidies through the Medicare Extra Help program should enroll.

^bPatients with an income at or above 500% of the federal poverty line are generally ineligible for financial support from public or patient assistance programs. In 2024, this was \$60,240 for a single individual household, \$81,760 for a family of 2, and \$124,800 for a family of 4.

Table 1. Seven Strategies to Help Patients Overcome Cost-Related Barriers to Prescription Drugs

	Co-payment cards	Patient assistance programs	Pharmacy coupons	Direct-to-consumer pharmacies	Public assistance programs	International online pharmacies	Real-time prescription benefit tools
Description	Discount provided by brand-name drug manufacturers to lower patient out-of-pocket costs for a specific medication	Programs sponsored by drug manufacturer provide brand-name prescription drugs for free or very low cost while nonprofit organizations and foundations provide financial assistance for co-payments or insurance premiums	Coupon that provides discounts on medicines purchased at local pharmacies without health insurance	Online or in-person pharmacies that sell prescription drugs directly to patients without health insurance ^a	Programs that provide medications to low-income patients at reduced costs	Pharmacies that sell and ship prescription drugs directly to patients without health insurance	Tool that provides clinicians with cost and coverage information at the time of prescribing a prescription drug
Benefits for patients	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduces brand-name drug costs, often to less than \$30 per month Easy to obtain from manufacturer websites Available to patients of all income levels 	Available to all patients, regardless of health insurance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Available to all patients, regardless of health insurance Provide access to generic drugs that are expensive or not covered by health insurance Easily accessible for patients and clinicians 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Available to all patients, regardless of health insurance Provide access to generic drugs that are expensive or not covered by health insurance 	Provide access to generic or brand-name prescriptions drugs for free or at very low cost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Available to all patients, regardless of health insurance Provide access to brand-name drugs that are expensive in the US 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increases drug cost transparency for patients Increases medication fill rates and can lower out-of-pocket costs for some patients Increasingly incorporated into electronic health records
Limitations for patients	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only patients with private health insurance are eligible Patients with public insurance coverage (eg, Medicare, Medicaid, Veterans Affairs) are excluded Cards often have limits on monthly and annual benefits Manufacturers may discontinue programs at any time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patients must meet strict program and financial eligibility criteria based on income or assets Time-consuming application process that often requires proof of income and signature from prescribing clinician Nonprofit organizations and foundations have a limited amount of annual funding from manufacturers to assist patients 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coupon prices change frequently and vary by pharmacy and zip code Typically most useful for generic, not brand-name, drugs The amount paid does not count toward health insurance deductible or annual maximum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Typically most useful for generic, not brand-name, drugs Patients have to shop around for the lowest price Some pharmacies provide only online mail-order services The amount paid does not count toward health insurance deductible or annual maximum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patients must meet strict financial eligibility criteria based on income or assets Time-consuming application process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drug quality can be questionable if purchasing from a nonreputable pharmacy Must follow US Food and Drug Administration policy on personal importation of prescription drugs and purchase no more than 90-d supply for oneself 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cost and coverage information may be inaccurate or unavailable for some prescription drugs Tools do not provide information about the other 6 strategies listed in this table
Recommended use	Patients with private health insurance taking a brand-name prescription drug without a clinically appropriate alternative	Patients with financial hardship in affording brand-name prescription drug without a clinically appropriate alternative	Any patient with difficulty affording a generic prescription drug, including drugs that are not covered by insurance	Any patient with difficulty affording a generic prescription drug, including drugs that are not covered by insurance	Any patient with financial hardship who is eligible for a local, state, or federal program	Patients taking a brand-name drug for a serious condition without any affordable options in the US, including medically appropriate generic alternatives	Every time a clinician prescribes a prescription drug electronically
Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Search drug name and "co-payment card" in an online search engine Alternatively, NeedyMeds is a nonprofit organization that aggregates co-payment cards from drug manufacturer websites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NeedyMeds (www.needymeds.org) and RxAssist (www.rxassist.org) aggregate manufacturer patient assistance program information HealthWell Foundation (www.healthwellfoundation.org) and Patient Access Network Foundation (www.panfoundation.org) are among the foundations that provide patient assistance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GoodRx (www.goodrx.com), RxSaver (https://www.rxsaver.com/), and SingleCare (www.singlecare.com) are among the third-party organizations that offer pharmacy coupons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Example direct-to-consumer pharmacies include Amazon (pharmacy.amazon.com), Costco (www.costco.com/cmpp), Health Warehouse (www.healthwarehouse.com), Mark Cuban Cost Plus (costplusdrugs.com), and Walmart (www.walmart.com/cp/4-prescriptions/1078664) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programs include Medicare Extra Help (www.ssa.gov/medicare/part-d-extra-help), Medicaid (www.medicaid.gov/about-us/where-can-people-get-help-medicaid-chip/index.html#statemenu), and state-sponsored programs (www.needymeds.org/state-programs) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use PharmacyChecker to find a reputable online pharmacy that can supply high-quality prescription drugs (www.pharmacychecker.com) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check with electronic health record provider

^a Table 3 describes the characteristics of 5 direct-to-consumer pharmacies.