Prescription assistance for Medicare patients

These are drug company policies adopted for giving free medicines to needy Medicare-eligible patients

POLICY FOR ELIGIBILITY	DRUG COMPANIES			
All Medicare patients	•Bradley Pharmaceuticals •Chiron-TOBI (If Medicare Part D co-pay is more than $25)	•ESP •Galderma •Gate •Genzyme	•GTx •Intermune •Kos •MGI	•Reliant •RxOutreach •Sanofi/Aventis
Patients without their specific drug covered	•Gilead •Ligand	•Novo Nordisk •NORD	•Ortho-Biotech •Roche	•Sankyo •Sigma-Tau
Patients without a Part D plan	•Abbott (patients will also need to send an "extra-help" denial letter) •Alcon •Allergan •AstraZeneca (until May 15) •Aventis Pasteur	•Boehringer Ingleheim •Bradley Pharmaceuticals •Bristol Myers Squibb •Chiron-Rabavert •Eisai •Forest •Genentech	•Solvay (must have Part D extra-help denial letter) •Janssen/ Ortho-McNeil •Johnson & Johnson •MedPointe •Merck •NABI	•Pfizer •UCB •Wyeth •Xcel •3M (and patients who have a plan that does not cover 3M medications may also apply)
All Medicare patients except those with "extra help"	•Procter & Gamble •Shire			
No Medicare patients will be eligible	•American Regent •Amgen (starting May 15) •Axcan •Biogen •Celgene •Cephalon (except that patients who are currently enrolled will continue to receive help) •Chiron (Proleukin) •Dermik •Eli Lilly (current patients can get help until May 15) •GlaxoSmithKline (patients who are not enrolled may still receive help until May 15) •Novartis •Novo Nordisk •Purdue			•Takeda (patients without part D can receive pap until May 15) •TAP (program ends for currently enrolled patients on March 31, all others effective immediately)
Undecided	•Advancis Pharmaceuticals •Alpharma •Biovail	•Endo •First Horizon •Savient	•Sankyo •Serono	•Upsher-Smith
Other	•Schering-Plough (only Medicare beneficiaries with Part D may qualify. Schering will provide free drug only for Medicare beneficiaries who are enrolled in Medicare drug plans, meet program eligibility criteria, and have spent $750 a year in out-of-pocket drug expenses. Once eligible for this assistance, patients will remain eligible throughout the year without regard to their Medicare coverage. The free drugs provided will have no bearing on beneficiary's Medicare plan eligibility and cannot be used to meet any out-of-pocket thresholds in their Medicare plan.			

Source: Calls conducted by Volunteers in Health Care on Feb. 9

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