

WHAT'S up WITH drug discount CARDS?

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with Claire Adams

YOU'VE SEEN the commercial. As a distraught mom walks away from a pharmacy counter unable to afford a medication for her child, the pharmacist calls out to the mom asking if she's heard about a drug discount company. The pharmacist applies a discount, the medication now costs 80% less, and the mom is relieved! Sound too good to be true? Maybe, maybe not. Read the FAQs below to learn more.

Q: What's a drug discount card?

A: *A card offering reduced prices on many prescription medications.*

Q: Where can I get one of these cards?

A: *An online web search will bring up multiple discount cards. Some examples: GoodRx, ScriptSave, Blink Health, US Pharmacy Card, SingleCare, and NeedyMeds.*

Q: How do I know if a discount card company is legitimate?

A: *Check the BBB rating. Don't enter personal data unless necessary, and confirm they aren't selling your data. Be wary of fees (most don't have fees). Read the fine print.*

Q: How do I know if my prescription is cheaper using the card?

A: *Enter your prescription data on the company's website. Participating pharmacies and prices will populate. (Select generics when possible. Compare 30 vs.90 day supply.) Drug prices fluctuate frequently, so you may pay more or less at time of sale.*

Q: How do I use a discount card?

A: *Print, text or email the discount card, or download the app. At the pharmacy, simply present the printout, text, email or app screen on your phone.*

Q: Where can I use a discount card?

A: *It's accepted at most chain and some private pharmacies.*

Q: If I have insurance, why would I use a discount card?

A: *You have a high deductible health insurance plan. You have a Part D Drug plan with a coverage gap (aka donut hole). Your medication is excluded from your health plan. The drug discount card price is less than your copay.*

Q: If my insurance covers my prescriptions, may I use the card too?

A: *The discount card is completely separate from your insurance. You may use your insurance or the discount card, but not both. (If you use the discount card, the amount you pay doesn't count towards your deductible or out-of-pocket)*

Q: Will the discount card offer a discount every time?

A: *Probably not. Ask the pharmacy to check your insurance first. If the insurance price is less, simply decline using the discount card.*

Q: If the card is free, how do drug discount card companies and pharmacies make money?

A: *The card company charges a small fee to the pharmacy. Pharmacies hope you'll buy their goods! Pharmacies are willing to discount your prescriptions in return for you potentially spending more money at their stores, or perhaps becoming a new customer.*

The CDC reports that in 2016, 73.9% of doctor visits involved drug therapy, with 2.9 billion prescriptions ordered or written! If just a fraction of those 2.9 billion prescriptions was discounted, think of the savings! Cash in on this money-saving tool today, you'll be glad you did. Oh, and for pet lovers, did I mention that some companies also offer discounts for pet medications? Check it out.

For more information, please contact your trusted advisor at Swartzbaugh-Farber – 'Client Centered – Client Advocates™'.