

Many older Rhode Islanders rely on prescription medications to help sustain their health. The associated costs can quickly add up. The Rhode Island Office of Healthy Aging (OHA) recommends consumers pursue opportunities to lower these costs by regularly evaluating their health insurance benefits; applying for the Rhode Island Pharmaceutical Assistance for Elders (RIPAE) program; and exploring other ways to save, such as through coupons and rebate programs. Call the POINT at 401.462.4444 for help with exploring your options.

Insurance Benefits

It is important to understand your insurance plan's prescription benefits. Many older adults have Medicare, a federal health insurance program for persons aged 65+. Part D of Medicare helps lower the costs of prescription drugs. Persons with limited income may also be eligible for Medicare's Extra Help program, which provides additional cost relief. The POINT offers free, confidential Medicare counseling to help people explore their options and select the right coverage for them.

Rhode Island Pharmaceutical Assistance for Elders (RIPAE)

RIPAE helps cover the cost of prescriptions for people with Medicare Part D plans. RIPAE can assist with deductibles for approved drugs and/or reimbursing some costs incurred when an approved medication is not covered by a Part D plan.

Other Ways to Save

Pharmaceutical companies and many non-profits offer coupons, drug discount cards, and other opportunities to save money on prescription medications. Switching to a generic drug can also produce savings; however, you should consult with your doctor before making any change to your medications. Your Prescription drug-related expenses may also be tax deductible. Talk to a tax professional about eligible deductions.

Need help affording prescription drugs?

Here are a few tips:

- ✓ Talk to your doctor or pharmacist about generics or lower-cost drugs
- ✓ Select a Medicare Part D plan that offers 'gap' coverage
- ✓ Consider use of mail-order or online pharmacies to buy in bulk and save money on co-pays
- ✓ Check for discounts available through the drug manufacturer
- ✓ Explore trusted websites, such as www.goodrx.com or www.needymeds.org for coupons and rebate programs
- ✓ Schedule an appointment with the POINT to review your full-range of options

what's the **POINT**?

Your trusted place for information on opportunities available to older adults, those living with disabilities, and caregivers. Call the POINT to explore healthcare options, apply for a variety of benefits, find resources near you, and more: **401.462.4444**