

## **Prescription Drug Price Finder - Frequently Asked Questions**

### **1. I take Lipitor, but the strength I take is 20 mg, and the website lists only the 10 mg strength. Are they the same?**

No. Drugs can be prescribed in different strengths and quantities and prices will vary depending on the strength and quantity. The website only lists the prices of one strength and quantity for each drug, typically the most commonly prescribed strength and quantity. If your strength or quantity is not listed, ask your pharmacy for the price of the strength and quantity that you take. Also, you may want to check with some of the pharmacies that have low prices for the strength and quantity listed on the website and ask them what the price is for the strength and quantity that you take.

### **2. One of the drugs I take is not listed among the 50 drugs on the website. How can I find out more information about that drug?**

Ask your pharmacy for the pricing information for the drugs that you take. Under Maryland law, they must provide you with that information. Also, you may want to check with some of the pharmacies that have low prices on the other drugs you are taking and ask them what the price is for the drug that is not listed.

### **3. When I went to one of the pharmacies that is listed on the website, the price that they charged for my drug was not the same as the price listed on the website. Why is that?**

Prices for prescription drugs may change from day to day. The prices on the website reflect the prices for a certain time period and they may not be the price that you find when you go to your pharmacy. The prices on the website, however, should provide you with a good basis to compare prices for certain drugs at pharmacies in your community.

### **4. Even with the website, the prices for my drugs are still too high. Is there anything I can do about that?**

The State offers pharmacy assistance programs that are administered by the Department of Health and Human Services. A link to the xxx website is provided. Additionally, the Department of Aging administers the Senior Health Insurance Program, which offers free counseling and advice to seniors to help them sort through the various health and drug related options that may be available. A link to the xxx program is provided. Also, ask your pharmacy if they have discounts for seniors. Many pharmacies do.

### **5. Isn't Medicare coming out with a prescription drug plan for seniors?**

Yes, beginning in 2006, Medicare will be offering prescription drug coverage to seniors who choose to participate. In the meantime, Medicare will sponsor discount cards through which seniors may be able to save up to 10-25% off retail drug prices. The discount cards will be available in June 2004, and Medicare will provide information to enable seniors to select the discount card that offers the best deals on the drugs that they take. Seniors with low incomes may qualify for a \$600 credit on their discount card. For more information, [a link to Medicare's website](#) is provided.

### **6. I do not have internet access, but I would like to take advantage of this website, what can I do?**

Public libraries offer free internet access and so do senior centers. In addition, ask friends and family who are connected to the internet if they can search the website for you. You

may also contact our office for assistance, or the local office of the Senior Health Insurance Program in your area.

**7. I searched the website and found lower prices for some of my drugs. Should I switch pharmacies?**

Not necessarily. Price is just one consideration. Your pharmacy may offer better and more personal service and you may have a good relationship with your pharmacist. If you prefer to remain with your pharmacy but other pharmacies may have lower prices, ask if your pharmacy will match the prices. Also, we strongly recommend that you buy all of your prescription drugs from one pharmacy. But, if you do purchase from more than one pharmacy, be sure to let the pharmacists know all of the medications you are taking to reduce the possibility of a harmful drug interaction.

**8. My search results show a "N/A" for the price of my drug. Does that mean that my pharmacy doesn't sell my drug?**

No. If you get an N/A, that means that the pharmacy did not fill a prescription for that drug through the Vermont Medical Assistance Program during that time period. To obtain pricing information for that drug, please contact the pharmacy.