

# Answers on Aging® | Pharmacy Benefits

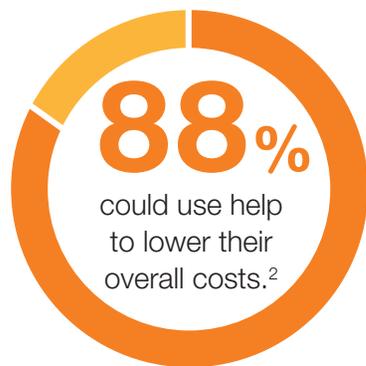
## Problem

### #1 challenge

Older adults most frequently cited medication cost as a problem they faced trying to access health care.<sup>1</sup>

## 1 in 5

Not understanding their benefits is an obstacle 20% of older adults report they face.<sup>1</sup>



## Solution

### 1 Know your pharmacy network

- Fill prescriptions at a preferred pharmacy, if it's an option, and you will likely pay less
- \$230 is the potential average annual savings Medicare members could have received if they had switched to a preferred pharmacy in 2016\*
- For savings, always choose a pharmacy that's in your drug plan's network

### 2 Know your medications

Ask your doctor and pharmacist if you can lower your pharmacy costs by choosing a:

- Generic alternative
- Lower-cost brand alternative
- 90-day instead of 30-day supply

### 3 Know your situation

- Evaluate changes in your health and prescription needs at least once a year
- Ask your doctor and pharmacist about ways to save on medications, including use of nonprescription options

\*Calculation is based on weighted Walgreens prescription utilization data and preferred and nonpreferred copay differentials. Sources used are: Monthly enrollment by plan; October 2015. CMS Web site. <https://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Statistics-Trends-and-Reports/MCRAdvPartDEnrolData/Monthly-Enrollment-by-Plan.html>. Accessed December 2015. Prescription drug plan formulary, pharmacy network, and pricing information files. CMS Web site. <https://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Files-for-Order/NonidentifiableDataFiles/PrescriptionDrugPlanFormularyPharmacyNetworkandPricingInformationFiles.html>. Accessed December 2015. PMPM utilization data and cost data from Milliman 2015. Walgreens NDC utilization data from January-May 2015.

1. The United States of Aging Survey. National Council on Aging Web site. <https://www.ncoa.org/resources/usa15-full-report-ppt/>. Published July 2015. Accessed November 24, 2015. 2. Abaluck J, Gruber, J. Choice inconsistencies among the elderly: Evidence from plan choice in the Medicare Part D program. *Am Econ Rev.* 2011;101(4):1180-1210.

The Answers on Aging® Pharmacy Benefits program is a public education campaign developed by the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a) and Walgreens. The campaign is designed to increase awareness of the fact that the majority of Medicare beneficiaries do not take full advantage of their Medicare prescription drug benefits, which can have a negative effect on their physical and financial health. Information that Medicare consumers gain as a part of this campaign can be used to help them maximize their benefits at the pharmacy of their choice.



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