

Dear Friend,

Helping older New Yorkers pay for the soaring costs of prescription drugs is, and always will be, a top priority of my colleagues and me in the State Senate. In fact, one of the Legislature’s proudest accomplishments in recent years was the expansion of New York’s Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage (EPIC) program, long recognized as one of the best low-cost prescription drug programs in the nation. Currently, more than a quarter of a million EPIC members are saving, on average, 90 percent of the costs of their medicines.

In this update, I provide basic information on New York’s EPIC program, including details on eligibility and coverage. For more details, please call the toll-free EPIC helpline at: 1-800-332-3742 (TTY: 1-800-290-9138) or visit: health.ny.gov. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact my office. My staff and I are here to serve you.

Sincerely



Senator Roxanne J. Persaud
19th Senate District

‘EXTRA HELP’ IS AVAILABLE

Seniors with limited income and resources may also be eligible for a federal subsidy from Medicare called Extra Help, which provides additional savings.

EPIC seniors who are income eligible for Extra Help from Medicare are required to complete a Request for Additional Information Form to enable EPIC to apply for this benefit on their behalf. Extra Help comes in two levels – full and partial. If approved for Extra Help, seniors pay lower co-payments. Those approved for full Extra Help from Medicare do not have to pay any EPIC fees.

Applications for Extra Help are available from the EPIC Program by calling the Helpline at: 1-800-332-3742.



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR
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EPIC

**ELDERLY PHARMACEUTICAL
INSURANCE COVERAGE PROGRAM**





NEW YORK STATE SENATOR
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WHAT IS EPIC?

EPIC is a New York State cost-sharing program that helps eligible seniors pay for their prescription drugs. Please note that, as of January 1, 2013, EPIC underwent several changes that are included below.

HOW DOES EPIC WORK?

Once enrolled, a senior will receive an EPIC card; each time you purchase prescriptions, present your EPIC card and your Medicare Part D card (all EPIC enrollees must participate in Medicare Part D or a Medicare Advantage plan) to the pharmacist. Seniors with moderate incomes pay a low quarterly fee and participate in the “fee” plan. Seniors with higher incomes meet an annual deductible and participate in the “deductible” plan.

Those who pay a fee, or who meet their deductible, make a co-payment at the pharmacy when purchasing prescriptions, typically in a range between \$3 and \$20. For single members with incomes up to \$23,000 as well as married participants with incomes up to \$29,000, EPIC will also pay at least a portion of Medicare Part D premiums.

Seniors will be responsible for any Medicare Part D deductibles. However, higher income seniors in the deductible

plan will see their EPIC deductible lowered by the annual cost of a basic Medicare Part D drug plan.

WHO CAN JOIN?

To be eligible, you must be a New York State resident 65 years or older with an annual income under \$75,000 if single, or \$100,000 or less if married.* You must also be enrolled in a Medicare Advantage (HMO) plan or a Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage plan.

WHAT PHARMACIES CAN I USE?

Most pharmacies in New York State are enrolled as EPIC providers. However, EPIC cannot be used at pharmacies located outside of New York State. Medications may be purchased from an EPIC participating mail-order pharmacy located in New York State.

| PRESCRIPTION COST | EPIC CO-PAYMENT |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Up to \$15 | \$3 |
| \$15.01 - \$35 | \$7 |
| \$35.01 - \$55 | \$15 |
| More than \$55 | \$20 |

* Please see the NYS Department of Health’s website for income definitions: https://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/epic/eligibility.htm

The EPIC Helpline can answer any questions you have or provide you with a list of EPIC participating mail-order pharmacies.

EPIC CO-PAYMENTS

Seniors should present their EPIC card, as well as any Medicare Part D or other drug insurance cards, at the pharmacy. Co-payments for covered drugs will range between \$3 and \$20.

HOW DOES THE MEDICARE PART D DRUG PLAN REQUIREMENT WORK?

EPIC members are required to enroll in a Medicare Part D or Medicare Advantage plan. Medicare provides primary drug coverage and EPIC is secondary. Using the two plans together results in greater savings to you. Certain drugs not covered by Medicare will be covered under EPIC. Please call the Helpline for more information.

WHAT DRUGS ARE COVERED?

Almost all prescription medicines are covered, as well as insulin, and insulin syringes and needles. Both brand name and generic drugs are included. The quantities you may purchase at one time are determined by your Medicare D plan, not by EPIC.

Many Part D plans will offer a three-month supply through special arrangements with the pharmacy, or at certain pharmacies. You should check with your pharmacy to see how you can obtain the larger quantity to avoid higher co-payments.

WHERE CAN I GET AN APPLICATION?

Applications are available at pharmacies, doctors’ offices, senior centers and local county offices for the aging. Seniors can also call the toll-free EPIC Helpline at 1-800-332-3742 or visit www.health.ny.gov

Please call the EPIC Helpline for more information.

1-800-332-3742

