

Assisting your patients in managing the *Donut Hole*

The Medicare Part D coverage gap

The coverage gap, also referred to as the *Donut Hole*, is one of the four Medicare Part D payments stages your patients will progress through. This is the payment stage where your patients will spend the most in out-of-pocket drug costs.

Reducing drug costs Tier 6 medications

While there are programs that can assist financially during the coverage gap (such as the Medicare Extra Help program and Medicare's Coverage Gap Discount Program), your patients may still have difficulties covering their drug costs.

Reminding your patients to never stop taking medications or making any changes to their medications without first consulting you is important. By prescribing Tier 6 medications, you may be able to reduce total drug costs for your patients with these lower-cost generic medications.

These following medications are available on Tier 6, which are available for \$0, even while your patients are in the coverage gap stage of Medicare Part D.

Blood pressure medications:

- Benazepril (Lotensin®): 5 mg, 10 mg, 20 mg, 40 mg
- Enalapril (Vasotec®): 2.5 mg, 5 mg, 10 mg, 20 mg
- Fosinopril: 10 mg, 20 mg, 40 mg
- Irbesartan (Avapro®): 75 mg, 150 mg, 300 mg
- Lisinopril (Prinivil® or Zestril®): 2.5 mg, 5 mg, 10 mg, 20 mg, 30 mg, 40 mg
- Losartan (Cozaar®): 25 mg, 50 mg, 100 mg
- Quinapril (Accupril®): 10 mg, 20 mg, 40 mg
- Ramipril (Altace®): 1.25 mg, 2.5 mg, 5 mg, 10 mg
- Trandolapril: 1 mg, 2 mg, 4 mg
- Benazepril-HCTZ (Lotensin HCT®): 5-6.25 mg, 10-12.5 mg, 20-12.5 mg, 20-25mg
- Enalapril-HCTZ (Vaseretic®): 5-12.5 mg, 10-25 mg
- Lisinopril-HCTZ (Zestoretic® or Prinizide®): 10-12.5 mg, 20-12.5 mg, 20-25 mg
- Losartan-HCTZ (Hyzaar®): 50-12.5 mg, 100-12.5 mg, 100-25 mg
- Valsartan-HCTZ (Diovan HCT®): 80-12.5 mg, 160-12.5 mg, 160-25 mg, 320-12.5 mg, 320-25 mg

Diabetes medications:

- Metformin (Glucophage®): 500 mg, 850 mg, 1000 mg
- Metformin ER (Glucophage XR®): 500 mg, 750 mg
- Glimperide (Amaryl®): 1 mg, 2 mg, 4 mg

- Glipizide (Glucotrol®): 5 mg, 10 mg
- Glipizide ER (Glucotrol XL®): 2.5 mg, 5 mg, 10 mg
- Glipizide-metformin: 2.5-250 mg, 2.5-500 mg, 5-500 mg

Osteoporosis medications:

- Alendronate (Fosamax®): 5 mg, 10 mg, 35 mg, 40 mg, 70 mg

Cholesterol medications:

- Atorvastatin (Lipitor®): 10 mg, 20 mg, 40 mg, 80 mg
- Lovastatin (Mevacor®): 10 mg, 20 mg, 40 mg
- Pravastatin (Pravachol®): 10 mg, 20 mg, 40 mg, 80 mg
- Rosuvastatin (Crestor®): 5mg, 10 mg, 20 mg, 40 mg*
- Simvastatin (Zocor®): 5 mg, 10 mg, 20 mg, 40 mg, 80 mg

* Rosuvastatin was added to Tier 6 in June