

# Massachusetts Residents Resource Sheet for Prescription Medications


Many indicators suggest health care (including insurance and prescriptions) could be more expensive for patients at the start of 2026. Navigating programs such as Medicare, understanding eligibility for additional help, and identifying cost-saving options can be confusing and overwhelming. The Brewster Board of Health developed this guide to help residents better understand the resources available to reduce prescription drug costs. This handout brings together Massachusetts-specific programs, Medicare assistance, and trusted cost-saving tools in one place, so residents can quickly find help, ask the right questions, and access medications safely and affordably.



## Massachusetts State Programs

- **Prescription Advantage (State Prescription Assistance Program)**

Helps Massachusetts residents age 65+ and some people with disabilities lower prescription drug costs. Works alongside Medicare Part D and other insurance.

 **Phone:** 1-800-243-4636 (MassOptions)


 **Website:** [prescriptionadvantagemma.org](https://prescriptionadvantagemma.org)


 **Fax (applications):** 508-793-1166

- **MassHealth (Massachusetts Medicaid)**

Provides prescription drug coverage for eligible low-income residents and can also help with Medicare costs.

 **MassHealth Customer Service:** 1-800-841-2900

 **TTY:** 1-800-497-4648

 **Website:** [mass.gov/masshealth](https://mass.gov/masshealth)




## Medicare Prescription Drug Help

- **SHINE – Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Everyone**

Free, unbiased counseling for Medicare beneficiaries. SHINE counselors help with:

- Medicare Part D drug plans
- Extra Help (Low-Income Subsidy)
- Prescription Advantage enrollment


 **SHINE / MassOptions:** 1-800-243-4636 (ask for SHINE)

 **Email:** [SHINE@state.ma.us](mailto:SHINE@state.ma.us)

- **Medicare Extra Help (Low-Income Subsidy)**

Helps pay Medicare Part D premiums, deductibles, and copays.

 **Social Security:** 1-800-772-1213

 **TTY:** 1-800-325-0778

 **Medicare:** 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)

- **Medicare Prescription Payment Plan (2025+)**

Allows you to **spread prescription drug costs evenly across the year** instead of paying large amounts early.

**How to enroll:** Call the customer service number on your Medicare Part D insurance card.

## **Help with Specific Medications**

- **Manufacturer Patient Assistance Programs**

Many drug companies offer free or low-cost medications for people who qualify.

**Search tools:**

- **NeedyMeds:** [needy meds.org](https://www.needy meds.org)
- **RxAssist:** [rxassist.org](https://www.rxassist.org)
- **PhRMA Medicine Assistance Tool:** [phrma.org/patient-assistance](https://www.phrma.org/patient-assistance)

These tools help you find programs by medication name.

## **Tips to Lower Prescription Costs**

Ask your doctor if a **generic or biosimilar** is available

Ask your pharmacist about **lower-cost alternatives or discount pricing**

Request **90-day prescriptions** when possible

If on Medicare, check eligibility for **Extra Help** every year

Do not skip medications—call one of the numbers above for help

## **Need Help Right Away?**

Start with **SHINE (1-800-243-4636)** or **Prescription Advantage (1-800-243-4636)** — they can guide you to the fastest and most appropriate assistance.