

No insurance?

CCMAP can help you with prescriptions

WHEN PAMELA GAYLE, 61, WORKED FOR PWC, GETTING HER PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS WAS EASY. SHE JUST CALLED THEM IN TO THE LOCAL DRUG STORE, PAID A \$20 CO-PAY AND TOOK THEM HOME WITHOUT THINKING ABOUT IT.

Everything changed when she lost her job after 14 years of employment. Not only did she have a loss of income, but she lost her prescription drug benefits as well.

Gayle has diabetes and high blood pressure, which require her to take numerous medications including insulin, potassium, cholesterol and blood pressure medications. The costs for these medications are significant, but going without them would put her health at risk.

“Pride got in my way,” she says. “I didn’t want to ask for help.”

But when a call to her usual drug store proved that the cost of buying her insulin without insurance would be more than \$500 per month, Gayle knew she had to swallow her pride.

She made a call to the Cumberland County Medication Access Program (CCMAP) and began the short journey to getting the medications she needed. Now instead of paying \$500 per month for insulin, Gayle pays just \$3.

A partnership between Cape Fear Valley Health System and the Cumberland County Health Department, CCMAP offers free or low-cost medications to those in need.

“We help uninsured patients fill their prescription needs if they have an income below 250 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines,” says Chris Tart, Director of Outpatient Pharmacy Services at Cape Fear Valley Health System. “The patient must be low-income, without prescription insurance and a resident of Cumberland, Sampson, Harnett or Hoke County.”

CCMAP began in August 2002, when the Cape Fear Valley’s Board of Trustees approved the program and hired its first program manager.

The program’s staff then collaborated with Better Health of Cumberland County, The CARE Clinic, the Mental Health Center, the Department of Social Services and the Health Department to launch the program.

In the years since, CCMAP has filled more than 209,000 prescriptions worth \$60 million to the program’s participants. Currently more than 2,500 people are enrolled in the program. Many of them are unemployed or work for employers who do not provide affordable health insurance.

The pharmacy at CCMAP – located inside the Cumberland County Health Department – receives medications from various places. Many of the medications are donated. Some are samples donated from physicians and clinics, as well as from other non-profit pharmacy programs that have extras to share. Occasionally a patient will donate unneeded medication back to CCMAP. This medication is stored in our pharmacy and can be used for other patients in need.

The rest of the medications dispensed are purchased or come from manufacturer patient assistance programs. CCMAP receives grant money and community donations to Cape Fear Valley Health Foundation to purchase medications. There is also a formulary of generic drugs available that is funded through Cape Fear Valley Health. Medications are also ordered through drug manufacturer patient assistance programs with the help of the CCMAP staff. These medications have a \$3 administration fee per prescription.

Those who think the application progress is too complicated to bother with needn’t worry.

“There is a short application to fill out,” Gayle says. “They make it very easy.”

To apply for assistance, you will need to provide proof of income, proof of county residency and other documents as required. Staff members at CCMAP will conduct an interview with the applicant and then fill out any initial paperwork as well as any follow-up paperwork needed for refills.

With the help of CCMAP, the uninsured need not suffer from complications of high blood pressure, diabetes or high cholesterol simply because they cannot afford their medication.

“That is the real reason we exist,” says Tart, “we are trying to

keep people healthy and out of the hospital and Emergency Department, by providing our patients with maintenance medications at little to no charge.”

Pamela Gayle is certainly glad she called.

“I am truly blessed,” she says. “Without CCMAP, I would not be able to get my insulin. Sometimes you have to put aside your pride. When you need help, there are people out there that will help you. But they don’t know you need help if you don’t ask.”



Chris Tart
Director, Outpatient
Pharmacy Services

“Without CCMAP, I would not be able to get my insulin.”
– PAMELA GAYLE

Cumberland County has about 40,000 uninsured residents, and approximately \$400,000 annually is needed to continue to provide CCMAP services for those in need.

Cape Fear Valley Health Foundation accepts contributions for the CCMAP program on an ongoing basis and submits grant proposals on behalf of the program. Your donations can help the community’s uninsured, like Pamela Gayle. To make a tax-deductible donation, please write CCMAP in the memo field of a check and mail it to: Cape Fear Valley Health Foundation, P.O. Box 87526, Fayetteville, NC 28304.



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