

# Insurance and Reimbursement Resources for MDS Patients

A Guide to Assistance Programs  
in the United States

Second Edition

The logo for the Myelodysplastic Syndromes Foundation, Inc. features the letters 'm' and 'd' in a light teal color, with a teal arrow pointing from the 'd' towards the word 'foundation'. The word 'foundation' is in a dark teal color. Below this, the full name 'the myelodysplastic syndromes foundation, inc.' is written in a smaller, dark teal font.

**m**ds  **foundation**  
the myelodysplastic syndromes foundation, inc.

We have assembled a listing of assistance programs available to MDS patients. It is important to know that there is support for those who cannot afford medicine or other healthcare costs. We hope this new resource will be beneficial in helping you with your medical needs.

### **Facts you should know about Medicare Part B coverage categories:**

- 1. Oral Anti-Cancer Drugs.** Oral drugs used for cancer treatment provided they have the same active ingredients and are used for the same indications as chemotherapy drugs that would be covered if they were not self-administered and were administered as incident to a physician's professional service.
- 2. Oral Anti-emetic Drugs.** Oral anti-nausea drugs used as part of an anti-cancer chemotherapeutic regimen as a full therapeutic replacement for IV anti-emetic drugs within 48 hours of chemotherapy.
- 3. Erythropoietin (EPO).** Treatment of anemia for persons with chronic renal failure who are undergoing dialysis when given in the dialysis center or when given "incident to physician's service" for other approved uses.
- 4. Durable Medical Equipment (DME) Supply Drugs.** Drugs that require administration with an infusion pump in the home if medically necessary (e.g. some chemotherapeutic agents).
- 5. Drugs furnished "incident to" a physician service.** Drugs used in immunosuppressive therapy (such as cyclosporine) for a beneficiary who has received a Medicare covered organ transplant.

### **Facts you should know about Medicare Part D:**

- 1. You have to enroll to get Part D.** If you have Medicare Part A (Hospital Insurance) and/or Medicare Part B (Medical Insurance), you are *not* automatically enrolled in Part D. You have to enroll in a specific Part D plan.
- 2. There will be additional costs.** In a basic benefits plan, a coverage gap can exist. Out-of-pocket costs would be:
  - \$250 deductible
  - You then receive 75% coverage until your total drug costs reach \$2,250, continuing up to \$5,100
  - You then pay 100% of the next \$2,850 of drug costs, until your *out-of-pocket* costs total \$3,600
  - Then, catastrophic coverage begins, and you receive 95% coverage after meeting the \$3,600 *out-of-pocket*
- 3. Observe enrollment periods.** During open enrollment, you can review plan choices to see which best fits your prescription drug needs. You can choose a new plan or remain with your current one. Open enrollment is November 15 through December 31 each year.

- 4. Compare plan formularies.** Research drug plans to take advantage of lower co-pays. You may pay a little more each month, but will probably save money in the long run! Medicare offers a tool to help you find health plans in your state that match your required drug list at: <http://plancompare.medicare.gov/formularyfinder/selectstate.asp>

## Government Assistance

### Formulary Finder for Prescription Drug Plans

This tool will allow you to find health plans in your state that match your required drug list. <http://formularyfinder.medicare.gov/formularyfinder/selectstate.asp>

### Medicaid

#### ***Prescription Drug Program***

Provides information about prescription drug coverage.

#### **1-800-Medicaid**

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medicaid/drugs/drughmpg.asp>

### Medicare

#### ***Prescription Drug Program***

Provides information about prescription drug coverage.

#### **1-800-Medicare (1-800-633-4227)**

<http://www.medicare.gov> and <http://www.cms.hhs.gov>

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### Social Security Disability Programs

The Social Security and Supplemental Security Income disability programs are the largest of several Federal programs that provide assistance to people with disabilities.

#### **1-800-772-1213**

<http://www.ssa.gov/disability>

# Medication & Co-pay Assistance

## Healthwell Foundation

This charitable organization offers co-pay assistance for MDS medications. Hours are Monday to Friday from 9:30 AM to 5:00 PM EST.

**1-800-675-8416**

<http://www.healthwellfoundation.org>

## National Organization for Rare Diseases

Medication Assistance Program

**1-800-999-6673 or 203-744-0100**

<http://www.rarediseases.org/programs/medication>

## Needy Meds

A resource for people who cannot afford medicine or other health-care costs. NeedyMeds has information on over 600 programs.

**1-215-625-9609**

<http://www.needymeds.com>

## Patient Access Network Foundation

This Foundation assists patients with their coinsurance associated with MDS treatments/medications. Hours are Monday to Friday from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM EST.

**1-866-316-7263**

<http://www.patientaccessnetwork.org>

## Patient Advocate Foundation

Patient Advocate Foundation's Co-Pay Relief (CPR) Program provides direct co-payment assistance for pharmaceutical products to insured Americans who financially and medically qualify.

**1-800-532-5274**

<http://www.patientadvocate.org>

## Patient Services, Inc.

A non-profit charitable organization, primarily dedicated to subsidizing the high cost of health insurance premiums and pharmacy co-payments for persons with specific chronic illnesses and rare disorders.

**1-800-366-7741**

<http://www.uneedpsi.org>

## **RX Assist**

This program provides a comprehensive database of patient assistance programs.

**1-877-844-8442**

<http://www.rxassist.org/default.cfm>

## **The Chronic Disease Fund**

This program provides assistance to those under-insured patients who are diagnosed with chronic or life altering diseases.

**1-877-968-7233**

<http://www.cdfund.org>

## **Together RX Access**

This program is free and offers over 25%–40% savings on over 275 brand name and generic prescription drugs.

**1-800-444-4106**

<http://www.togetherrxaccess.com>

# **Pharmaceutical Company Assistance**

## **Alexion Pharmaceuticals, Inc.**

### ***The Soliris™ OneSource™ Program***

Soliris OneSource™ is a treatment support service for all paroxysmal nocturnal hemoglobinuria (PNH) patients and their healthcare providers. Soliris™ (eculizumab) is the first and only therapy approved for PNH, a rare, disabling and life-threatening blood disorder characterized by chronic red blood cell destruction, or hemolysis.

**1-888-Soliris (1-888-765-4747)**

[www.soliris.net](http://www.soliris.net)

## **Amgen**

### ***Reimbursement Connection***

Amgen's patient assistance programs provide replacement product for uninsured or underinsured qualifying patients with limited financial resources. To enroll, please call the reimbursement connection hotline. Program includes Aranesp®, Neulasta® and Epogen®.

**1-800-272-9376**

[www.reimbursementconnection.com](http://www.reimbursementconnection.com)

## **Celgene Corporation**

### ***The RevAssist Program***

A proprietary risk-management restrictive distribution program, tailored specifically for Revlimid patients.

**1-888-4CELGENE**

[www.Revlimid.com](http://www.Revlimid.com)

### ***PSC Program (Patient Support Coordinator)***

A dedicated, central point of contact helping providers and patients who rely on Celgene products.

**1-800-931-8691**

[www.CelgenePSC.com](http://www.CelgenePSC.com)

## **MGI PHARMA, Inc.**

### ***The MGI PHARMA Access Program (MAP)***

Please contact a specialist at the MGI PHARMA Access Program (MAP) for DACOGEN® patient and reimbursement assistance. Specialists are available to answer questions, help find resources for patients, and provide DACOGEN® product information. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM to 8:00 PM Eastern Standard Time.

**1-877-MGI-MAP0 (1-877-644-6270)**

## **Novartis**

### ***The EPASS Prescription and Reimbursement System***

For patients who are being treated for iron overload, this system will ensure you receive your prescriptions on time at your home or location of choice.

**1-888-90E-PASS (1-888-903-7277)**

[www.epassrx.com](http://www.epassrx.com) or [www.exjadeus.com](http://www.exjadeus.com)

## **Ortho Biotech**

### ***ProcritLine***

Resources to help patients or caregivers learn more about treatments or financial programs. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM to 8:00 PM Eastern Standard Time.

**1-800-553-3851**

[www.procritline.com](http://www.procritline.com)

## Pharmion Corporation

### ***The VIDAZA Patient Assistance Program***

To obtain assistance from the VIDAZA Patient Assistance Program, please contact a reimbursement specialist at 1-866-Pharmion (1-866-742-7646), Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM Eastern Standard Time.

### **Reimbursement Hotline and Website link: 1-866-PHARMION (1-866-742-7646)**

<http://www.vidaza.com/corporateweb/vidazaus/homeB.msf/Content/Reimbursement?>

## Write your legislators

### **Letters do make a difference—There is power in numbers.**

To locate your Legislator: <http://www.house.gov/writerep/>

#### ***For a Representative of the House***

The Honorable (First and Last Name)  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative (Last Name):

*or*

#### ***For a Member of the Senate***

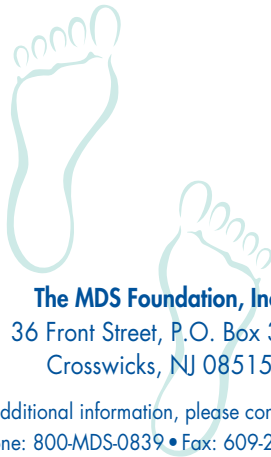
The Honorable (First and Last Name)  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator (Last Name):

## Tips for Writing Congress

- State your purpose for writing in the first sentence of the letter. For example, *As your constituent, I am writing to urge your support for increased funding for health care.*
- Include personal information about why the issue matters to you to make your point.
- If your letter pertains to a specific piece of legislation, identify it. And make sure that you are referencing the correct legislation to the correct body of Congress. House bills are H.R.\_\_\_\_; Senate bills are designated as S.\_\_\_\_. It is also important to know the status of the bill.
- Be courteous.
- Close your letter with a restatement of your purpose and indicate the response that you expect.

**Please call The MDS Foundation at 1-800-MDS-0839 for additional information.**



**The MDS Foundation, Inc.**

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Crosswicks, NJ 08515

If you would like additional information, please contact us by phone or fax:

Phone: 800-MDS-0839 • Fax: 609-298-0590