

Insurance and Reimbursement Resources for MDS Patients

A Guide to Assistance Programs
in the United States

Third Edition

The logo for the Myelodysplastic Syndromes Foundation, Inc. features a stylized teal mountain range on the left. The text 'mds' is in a bold, lowercase sans-serif font, followed by a teal circle with a white arrow pointing right. The word 'foundation' is in a larger, lowercase sans-serif font. Below this, the full name 'the myelodysplastic syndromes foundation, inc.' is written in a smaller, lowercase sans-serif font.

mds → **foundation**
the myelodysplastic syndromes foundation, inc.

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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 Anticancer 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 service.
- 2. Oral Antiemetic 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” a 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’s 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:
 - \$295 deductible
 - You then pay 25% of the next \$2,405 (25% of \$2,405 = \$601.25)
 - Donut hole “threshold” = \$2,700
What you and the plan have spent ($\$295 + \$2,405 = \$2,700$)
 - You then pay 100% of the next \$3,453.75 of drug costs (the “donut hole”)
 - Then, catastrophic coverage begins after you have spent \$4,350. This is your total out-of-pocket spending requirement ($\$295 + \$601.25 + \$3,453.75 = \$4,350$)
- 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 between November 15 and December 31 each year.

- 4. Compare plan formularies.** Research drug plans to take advantage of lower copays. You may pay a little more each month, but you 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>

About 40 states have assistance programs to help low-income patients, who can also get help with Medicare Part D costs, either through their state or Medicare. Check with your Area Agency on Aging (to find yours, call 800-677-1116).

Additional Resources:

www.medicare.gov

www.medicarerights.org

www.mymedicarematters.org

www.ssa.gov

www.thedesk.info/PartD

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>

Medicare and Medicaid

Prescription Drug Programs: 1-800-633-4227

Provides information about prescription drug coverage.

www.medicare.gov

www.cms.hhs.gov/home/medicaid/asp

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

Department of Health and Human Services

200 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20201

Social Security Disability Programs: 1-800-772-1213

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

www.ssa.gov/disability

Medication & Underinsured Assistance

Chronic Disease Fund: 1-877-968-7233

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

www.cdfund.org

HealthWell Foundation: 1-800-675-8416

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

www.healthwellfoundation.org

National Organization for Rare Diseases: 1-800-999-6673 or 1-203-744-0100

Medication Assistance Program

www.rarediseases.org/programs/medication

Needy Meds: 1-215-625-9609

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

www.needymeds.com

Partnership for Prescription Assistance: 1-888-4PPA-NOW (1-888-477-2669)

Prescription assistance programs, often sponsored by drugmakers, help patients who qualify based on financial need. Search this website for a comprehensive listing of more than 475 public and private patient assistance programs, including nearly 200 programs offered by pharmaceutical companies.

www.pparx.org

Patient Access Network Foundation: 1-866-316-PANF (1-866-316-7263)

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.

www.patientaccessnetwork.org

Patient Advocate Foundation: 1-800-532-5274

This program provides direct copayment assistance for pharmaceutical products to insured Americans who financially and medically qualify.

www.patientadvocate.org

Patient Services, Inc.: 1-800-366-7741

A nonprofit charitable organization primarily dedicated to subsidizing the high cost of health insurance premiums and pharmacy copayments for persons with specific chronic illnesses and rare disorders.

www.uneedpsi.org

RxAssist: 1-401-729-3284

This program provides a comprehensive database of patient assistance programs.

www.rxassist.org

Together Rx Access: 1-800-444-4106

This program is free and offers savings of 25%–40% on over 300 brand name and generic prescription drugs.

www.togetherrxaccess.com

Specialty Pharmacies That Carry MDS Medications

Accredo Nova Factor: 1-866-289-7577 (www.accredonovafactor.com)

Offers specialized care and support for patients. Their clinical, educational and reimbursement services are tailored to meet each patient's individual needs. They will even help untangle your insurance coverage.

BioScrip: 1-866-807-0516 (www.bioscrip.com)

Your complete source for effective specialty pharmacy solutions, from personalized patient support services to medication management programs for health plans.

Diplomat Specialty Pharmacy: 1-877-977-9118 (www.diplomatpharmacy.com)

Provides clinical and reimbursement solutions to patients with oncologic and hematologic disorders. Diplomat's Oncology Navigator Program provides a dedicated team to help patients and healthcare professionals gain access to required oncology medications.

US Bioservices: 1-877-263-7089 (www.usbioservices.com)

Delivers nationwide specialty pharmacy and nursing services that meet the unique needs of patients.

Pharmaceutical Company Assistance

Alexion Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

The Soliris™ OneSource™ Program: 1-888-Soliris (1-888-765-4747)

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.

www.soliris.net

Amgen

Reimbursement Connection: 1-800-272-9376

Amgen's patient assistance programs provide replacement product for uninsured or underinsured qualifying patients with limited financial resources. Program includes Aranesp®, Neulasta®, Epogen®, Vectibix®, and NPlate®.

www.reimbursementconnection.com

Bayer HealthCare Pharmaceuticals

Leukine Reimbursement Program: 1-800-321-4669

Provides answers to reimbursement and coverage policy questions. Hours of operation are Monday to Friday from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM EST.

www.leukine.com

Celgene Corporation

Celgene Patient Support™: 1-800-931-8691

A dedicated central point of contact helping providers and patients identify resources to gain access to Celgene products, including Revlimid and Vidaza. Available to answer your questions Monday to Friday from 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM EST.

www.CelgenePSC.com, www.Revlimid.com, www.Vidaza.com

The RevAssist® Program: 1-888-423-5436

A proprietary risk-management education and restrictive distribution program for patients who have been prescribed Revlimid. Information about Revlimid can be obtained by calling the Celgene Customer Care Center toll free Monday to Friday from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM EST and Saturday from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM EST.

RevAssist® registration may be completed by visiting RevAssist Online® or by calling the Celgene Customer Care Center.

www.Revassistonline.com, www.Revlimid.com

Eisai, Inc.

Dacogen Patient Assistance and Reimbursement Program: 1-877-644-6270

Provides information on Dacogen reimbursement services. Available Monday to Friday from 9:00 AM to 8:00 PM EST.

www.Dacogen.com

Novartis Oncology: 1-888-90-EPASS (1-888-903-7277)

EPASS (EXJADE Patient Assistance and Support Services)

EXJADE prescription and reimbursement program helps ensure that patients receive their prescriptions on time at home or the location of their choice.

EXJADE ScriptAssist Program

Assistance and support services hotline for patients already receiving EXJADE. Contact your specialty pharmacy to determine your eligibility and to enroll in this cost savings program. Eligible patients can receive up to \$100 toward out-of-pocket expenses for up to 9 EXJADE prescriptions for a total savings of up to \$900. Contact EPASS Complete Care Monday to Friday from 9:00 AM to 8:30 PM EST.

www.epassrx.com, www.us.exjade.com

Centocor Ortho Biotech, Inc.

ProcritLine: 1-800-553-3851

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

www.procritline.com

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