

Rx Partnership Teams Up with AstraZeneca to Increase Medication Access for Uninsured Virginians in Need

This Brings the Total to Seven National Pharmaceutical Companies Making Over 130 Vital Medications Available through Rx Partnership's Nationally Recognized Program

Richmond, Va.—Already nationally recognized as a model for accessing patient assistance medication, Rx Partnership will now coordinate the delivery of AstraZeneca medications to treat conditions such as high cholesterol, hypertension and asthma to thousands of uninsured Virginians quickly and efficiently.

“At AstraZeneca, we understand that our medicines only help patients if they can access those medicines” according to Christine McHenry, Director, Patient Assistance Programs. “We are very pleased to be able to work with Rx Partnership to make our medicines available through their program.”

Rx Partnership provides consistent and coordinated access to medication for 21 Affiliate Free Clinics and Community Health Centers throughout the state with the help of seven leading pharmaceutical companies including Abbott, Alcon, GSK, Merck, Novartis, sanofi-aventis US and AstraZeneca.

“These companies have shown tremendous leadership and a strong commitment to assisting our state’s most vulnerable patients,” said Amy Yarcich, Executive Director of Rx Partnership. “The provision of free medication for uninsured patients in need ensures that thousands of patients can improve their health, maintain employment and lead longer and better lives. We look forward to expanding the Rx Partnership program to include more clinics and pharmaceutical partners so we can better serve patients who utilize the health safety net for essential medical care.”

Rx Partnership creates a streamlined and cost-effective process that helps connect pharmaceutical companies to free clinics and community health centers in Virginia, resulting in the shipment of free medication for eligible, uninsured people who need it. Patients suffering from a variety of acute and chronic illnesses are able to access the medication they need, free and without a wait. Uninsured patients access medications directly through the clinic that serves as their medical home and are able to be monitored by their physician; crucial medication changes

and adjustments are simple and immediate. As a result of improving access to medication, the program increases compliance with medication regimens, reduces emergency room visits and allows clinics to re-direct scarce resources toward programs, services and additional staff that can help address the lifestyle issues that contribute to many chronic conditions.

“The availability of medications through Rx Partnership does much more than improve our patient’s health – it keeps them alive. Most of our patients do not have any other means of acquiring medications and would be without treatment for their conditions,” according to the Free Clinic of Culpeper, one of 21 Rx Partnership Affiliates with a licensed pharmacy serving uninsured Virginians.

Patients can learn more about Rx Partnership and identify an Affiliate clinic in their areas by going to www.RxPartnership.org.

About Rx Partnership

Founded in 2003, Rx Partnership is an innovative public/private partnership created to increase access to free prescription medications for Virginia's eligible uninsured by obtaining donated medications in bulk from pharmaceutical companies and arranging for distribution directly to nonprofit, licensed affiliate pharmacies that it credentials and monitors. Pharmacies are operated by free clinics and community health centers. It receives annual financial support from the Virginia General Assembly to support operations and private funds from foundations, corporations, and affiliate fees. For more information, visit www.RxPartnership.org.

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