

Building Health Literacy about FREE Rx Services



LOCAL SITUATION



- Uninsured adults with limited incomes lack access to prescription drug services.
- The cost of prescription drugs is a specific barrier to care for low-income working age adults, particularly African Americans and Latinos who are substantially less likely to fill prescriptions than their white peers.
- Chronically ill adults who lack access to prescription drugs often experience medical crises that require hospitalization or urgent and more costly care in a hospital emergency room.
- Community tutorials are a great way to build health literacy about pharmacy assistance programs.



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

1. Pharmaceutical manufacturers are required to offer 'pharmacy assistance programs' to provide free or low-cost prescription drugs to chronically ill adults who are uninsured and have limited incomes.
2. Most pharmacy assistance programs will provide free or low-cost prescription drugs to people who earn up to (and sometimes more than) 200% of the Federal Poverty Level.
3. Applications for free or low-cost prescription drugs are available on-line.
4. Libraries, family service sites and other neighborhood-based resource centers offer free use of computers to local residents, including access to the Internet.



WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

1. Use community tutorials to teach chronically ill adults to use on-line systems ('the web') to secure free prescription drugs from pharmacy assistance programs.
2. Host the community tutorials at local libraries, family service sites, or other neighborhood-based resource centers that have a computer lab.
3. Use a colorful flyer to promote attendance at the tutorials.
4. Display the flyer in physician offices, community clinics, school resource centers, local libraries, laundry mats, hair salons, and health and social service agencies.
5. Train multiple staff or volunteers to conduct the tutorial – and have 4 to 5 staff/volunteers present at each tutorial.
6. Limit attendance to 8 to 10 participants per tutorial to allow ample opportunity for interaction between staff/volunteers and tutorial participants.

TUTORIAL TOOLS

1. 8 to 10 computer terminals and printers
2. PowerPoint orientation to pharmacy assistance programs
3. Step-by-step written instructions, with pictures
4. Internet access to www.RXAssist.org to:
 - a. determine availability of pharmacy assistance program by medication
 - b. review program eligibility requirements
 - c. download and complete at least 1 application per participant
5. 5 x 7 postcard on which to record medications needed, manufacturers' name, phone number, and web-site address
6. **'Computer Lingo Gotcha Game'** to encourage participants to listen carefully to the instructor and to collect a \$10 gift card when the instructor uses computer buzz words, acronyms, or other off-putting 'techno-speak'

