

Take a (Savings) Pill

Pharmacy discounts offered to RECC members

Looking for ways to save on your household expenses? The answer could already be in your wallet or purse!

Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative members have received free Co-op Connections Cards, which entitle them to savings at hundreds of national and local businesses. FREE is the key word. This is not a credit card offer or a pay-for-discounts fund raiser. The card is free, the program is free, participation is free, and you are free to enjoy the benefits.

One unique opportunity that members may be overlooking with these cards, is the prescription drug discounts of 20 to 60 percent, available at most area pharmacies.

As part of our Touchstone Energy affiliation, electric co-ops across the nation created the Co-op Connections card and secured significant discounts from national chains, local businesses and over 48,000 national, regional and local pharmacies including CVS, Walgreens, Wal-Mart, Target and many independents.

While we do not get specific information on who uses the card or what they use it for, we do receive a monthly summary of our co-op's total pharmacy participation. The numbers show that a few members are saving serious money, but the numbers haven't grown over the past year. We've had 40 to 50 prescriptions sold with the card discount each month, for a savings of \$600-\$1,200 per month.

That's good – an average savings of around 40 percent for each prescription – but surely our 4,600 members are buying more than 50 prescriptions a month!

The card may not be applicable in all situations. If your insurance is paying for the prescription, you're



probably already getting a discounted price. Or some retailers are offering a few of their medications for as little as \$4. But many pharmacy purchases are paid directly by the consumer at a cost where any discount is a big help.

This program is not insurance, but by combining the national membership of electric cooperatives, the Co-op Connections Card negotiated significant discounts on doctor-prescribed medications through the Health-Trans and New Benefits network. This pharmacy program means members who do not have a prescription "co-pay" benefit can now receive a lower price for their prescription drugs.

The card is easy to use. Present the card with any prescription. Pharmacists calculate your discount under the plan and you will only pay the dis-

counted price. No forms are required; you instantly pocket the savings. Even if the local pharmacist isn't familiar with the program, they can call the number on the card to check on their store's discount agreement.

You can search for discount participants online at www.locateproviders.com and use the Group and Member numbers on the back of your Co-op Connections Card. Or, log onto www.rxpricequotes.com to search by drug and ZIP code. Call 1-800-800-7616 if you have questions about discounts.

It's another way to save money for your family, which is welcome news in today's stumbling economy! If you can't find your Co-op Connections card, stop by the office to get a new card. It's another benefit of being a co-op member!

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