

# The Knockout Rx Program

Save a Ton on Costly Rx



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What's up in the Seniorhood? Most people have never heard of the following program, including most Medicare agents. You can even learn of its existence, yet still not know how to use it. You will both learn about it and know how to use it here; if you can handle the truth.

The program is called the 340B Drug Pricing Program. Here follows an official, partial, boring description of what it is:



The 340B Drug Pricing Program is a federal program that requires drug manufacturers participating in the Medicaid drug rebate program to provide outpatient drugs to enrolled “covered” entities at or below statutory ceiling price.

So essentially it's a drug discount program, but unlike any others you have heard about. Nevertheless, at first glance it looks like you would have to be on Medicaid to qualify. However that is not the case.

Who qualifies? ***There is no income requirement and the patient does not need to be enrolled in any special government program to qualify.*** The pharmacy or medical provider does, but the patient does not.

Next thing to understand is that there is no specific drug list. Some drugs may be on the list and some may not, and it may vary from one 340B pharmacy to another.

So you may have to try several different places to see if the drug you want is covered at a discount price.

Assuming the drug you want is covered, how can you get access to it? **For starters, you have to be a patient of the 340B entity.** You can waltz if you want to, but what you can't do is simply waltz into a 340B pharmacy with the prescription from your doctor and just get the prescription.



Therefore, you must be patient of the entity to use their pharmacy and get the discount. How do you do that?

I'll show you how, but first, realize that when you find a 340B provider nearby, they may be on your insurance and they may not. And even if the provider is on your insurance, you may not like the idea of changing doctors.

You may or may not have to change doctors, but one way or another you will have to become a patient of a 340B provider in order to get the discount.

If you can't or won't change providers or the 340B provider is not on your insurance; you simply ask to be a cash patient of the 340B provider. This means you would be going to a second doctor for the same thing you already went to your regular doctor for. But one way or another, if you want the discount, you have to jump through the appropriate hoops.

So you either switch and get a new 340B doctor or get a second doctor who is a 340B provider and see them for the same thing, and get them to issue you a new prescription that you can then use at a 340B pharmacy and get the discounted amount as your cost.

Thus, working backwards, you may have to first call a few 340B pharmacies and see who has the drug you want, and then ask what the 340B discount price would

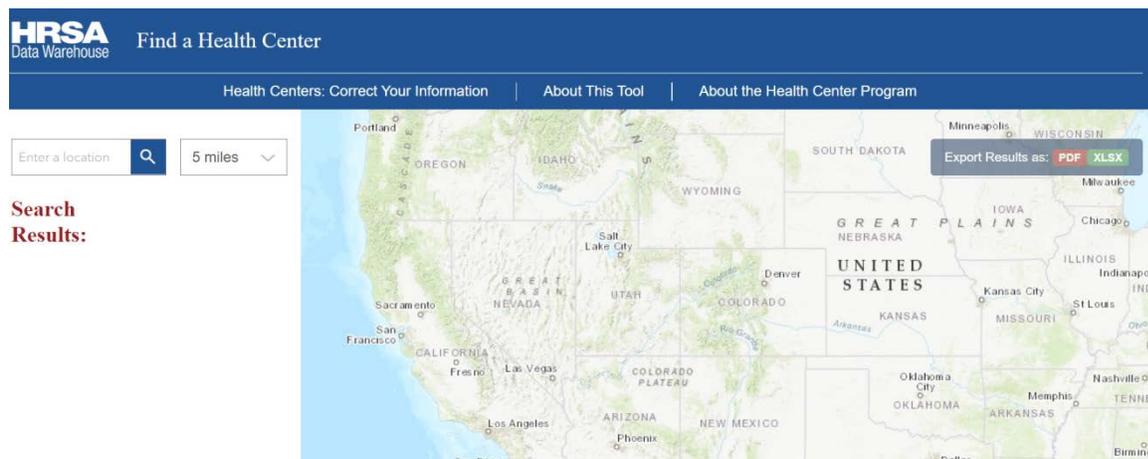
be for that specific drug, and then if satisfactory to you, you establish yourself as a patient with a provider that can refer you to that pharmacy.

It may not be the easy magic you were hoping for, but to save hundreds or thousands is plenty magical even if you have to go through a hassle to do so.

How do you find 340B providers? The easiest way I know of is to search for what are called Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC). Federally Qualified Health Centers are 340B providers.

Here is the link to find Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC):

<https://findahealthcenter.hrsa.gov/>



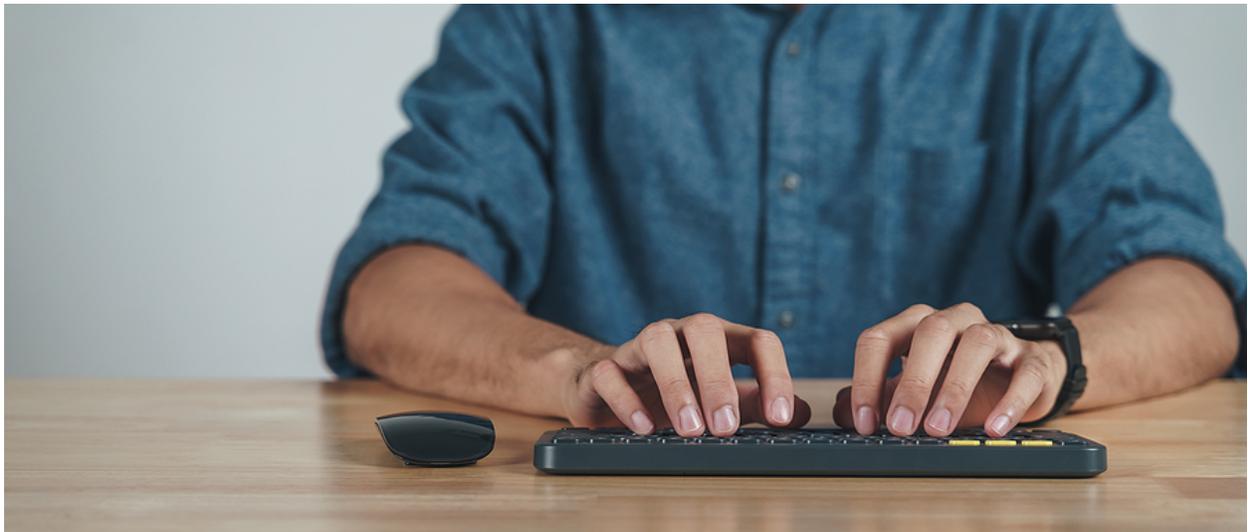
You follow the link and put in your zip code and choose what mileage radius you want, and it should show you a list of Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) in your area.

Not all of the Federally Qualified Health Centers on this list will be usable. Some may only accept patients in special situations such as an AIDS patient. But if you keep digging, there should be some who will take anyone as a patient.

You follow each link for the list and look at their website and get an idea if they might work for you and may be if they have access to a pharmacy. Then if it looks like a possibility you call their pharmacy and start your inquest as to whether your drug would be covered at a good price. And then by calling the office of their

providers to see if you can go as a cash patient, (unless they are on your insurance and you are willing to switch.)

And here follows a little bit more information and some examples.



### **FINDING A PHARMACY AND COMPARING PRICES:**

Call a Federally Qualified Health Center: ask what 340B Pharmacy they use, call the pharmacy and ask the price for the FQHC or 349B drug discount program.

You may want to call more than one, because the discount on a drug can vary from one pharmacy to another.

Always ask for a 30 day quote and a 90 day quote.

One other note: in addition to what I've mentioned, there may be other things they ask you for, in order to qualify as their patient. I heard of one that asked for proof of income. KEEP in mind that the level of the person's income didn't matter; they could make a million and still qualify; but it was required to show the income, whatever it was. Other clinics may have other rules; you'll have to play it by ear.

I'll give you an example of some FQHC 340B providers that I have researched, in Southern California.

One such provider is AltaMed clinics in Orange and LA counties in Southern California. You can use an AltaMed doctor if your insurance accepts AltaMed, or if your insurance does not accept AltaMed doctors, you can see them as a cash patient.

Altamed clinics have their own pharmacy. There are many Altamed clinics in Southern California, although not all have pharmacy attached.

Here is one such Altmed Clinic and pharmacy: AltaMed Doctors' Office and Pharmacy Anaheim, CA ph: (714) 507-1484; 1325 N Anaheim Blvd #200, Anaheim, CA 92801.

Another is Palm Springs Family Care Center, 191 North Sunrise Way, Palm Springs, CA 92262. Clinic 760-778-2210. Pharmacy is in Moreno Valley at 951-486-45-15 or 951-988-9520.

Another I believe may work is UCI Health Family Center in Santa Ana 657-282-6355. But I haven't talked to them.

So those are examples, but there are Federally Qualified Health Centers all over the United States so there should be some in your area. Again, you may have to climb the hill so to speak, and make some effort to figure out which ones may work for you; but if you can handle the truth, it may end up quite rewarding.



Best of luck and let me know how it goes.

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