To: State Unit on Aging
   I&R Liaisons

From: Greg Case, Director
       National Aging I&R Support Center

Re: Resources for Prescription Drug Assistance Programs

Date: August 23, 2001

In the United States, the cost of prescription drugs can create a serious financial burden for older Americans, particularly those of low and moderate income. State Units on Aging have long been leaders in the development of pharmacy assistance programs designed to assist those with greatest need. In recent months several pharmaceutical companies have begun to offer discounts through special enrollment programs, in addition to their limited free prescription drug programs. To ensure that State Units on Aging have access to the latest information on prescription assistance programs, the National Aging I&R Support Center has compiled a listing of Web resources currently available.

The Administration on Aging's National Aging Information Center (NAIC) Internet Information Notes provides a comprehensive listing of Web resources on a variety of topics. Under Prescription Drugs (http://www.aoa.dhhs.gov/naic/Notes/presciptiondrugs.html) NAIC has a number of useful links including one to State Pharmaceutical Assistance Programs and another to Pharmaceutical Manufacturer Programs. The Pharmaceutical Manufacturer Programs page provides additional links to PHRMA (<http://www.phrma.org/searchcures/dpdpap/>), and Needy Meds (www.needymeds.com), among other resources.

The PHRMA link takes you directly to PHRMA's Directory of Prescription Drug Patient Assistance Programs which lists manufacturer programs by company and includes both free programs as well as some of the new discount programs. The Needy Meds site includes both a listing of the prescription drug assistance programs by company as well as a chart comparing the new discount card programs currently offered. The chart includes contact information and, where available, links to the program Web site.

Currently five prescription discount card programs are available. They are:

* GlaxoSmithKline Orange Card (no Web site available - 1-888-672-6436)
* LillyAnswers Card (www.lillyanswers.com)
* Novartis Care Card (www.careplan.novartis.com)
* Pfizer SHARE Card (www.pfizerforliving.com)
* Together Rx Card - a joint project of seven companies (www.together-rx.com)

To be eligible for the discount card programs an applicant must be a Medicare enrollee, have no public or private prescription drug coverage,
and meet income requirements which vary among the discount card programs as listed below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Discount Card Program</th>
<th>Single</th>
<th>Household</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GSK Orange</td>
<td>$26,000</td>
<td>$35,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LillyAnswers</td>
<td>$18,000</td>
<td>$24,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Novartis Care</td>
<td>$27,000</td>
<td>$36,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pfizer Share</td>
<td>$18,000</td>
<td>$24,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Together Rx</td>
<td>$28,000</td>
<td>$38,000</td>
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Another useful tool for both professionals and consumers is offered by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). CMS offers assistance in locating prescription assistance programs in a given state or community through their medicare.gov Web site www.medicare.gov/Prescription/Home.asp. A tool which allows physicians to access prescription drug assistance programs for their patients via the Internet can be found at www.rxhope.com.

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