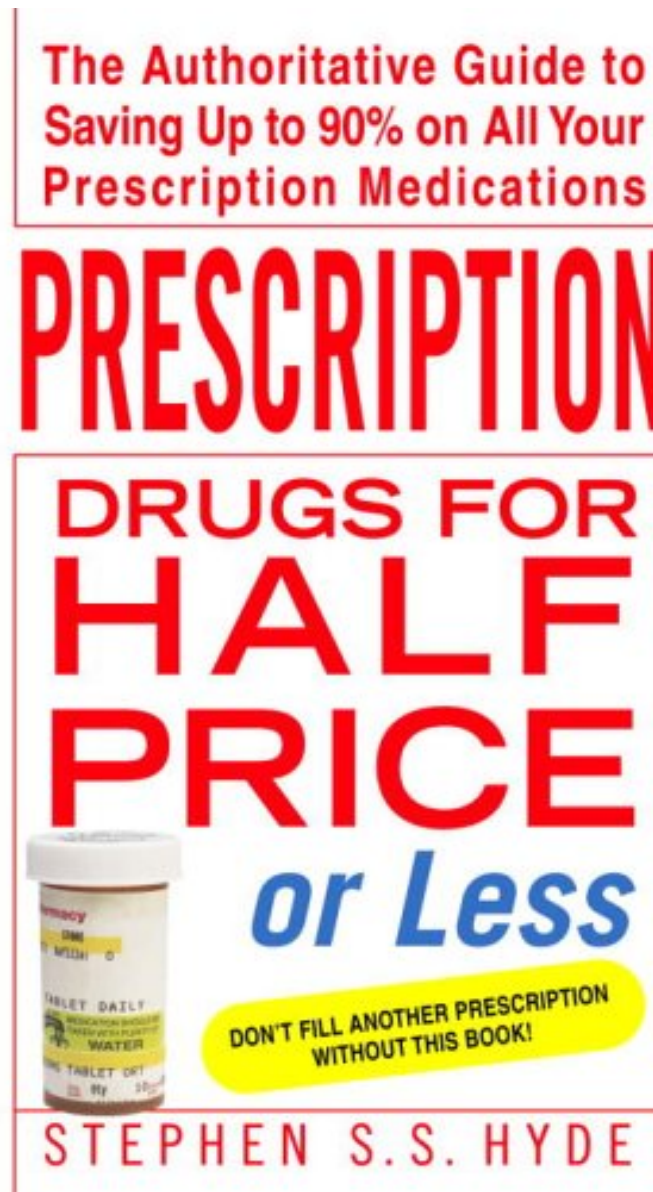


[Download pdf] Prescription Drugs for Half Price or Less: The Authoritative Guide To Saving Up To 90% On All Your Prescription Medications

Prescription Drugs for Half Price or Less: The Authoritative Guide To Saving Up To 90% On All Your Prescription Medications

Stephen Hyde

ebooks | Download PDF | *ePub | DOC | audiobook



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#4676434 in Books 2005-12-27 2005-12-27Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.25 x .67 x 5.211, .50 #File Name: 0553383906304 pages | File size: 31.Mb

Stephen Hyde : Prescription Drugs for Half Price or Less: The Authoritative Guide To Saving Up To 90% On All Your Prescription Medications before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Prescription Drugs for Half Price or Less: The Authoritative Guide To Saving Up To 90% On All Your

Prescription Medications:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy GARY R.I used the information this book provided and am happy with the results.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy QUIET HOLLER STUDIOS - DAN ALLREDPerfect!1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy CustomerOf course his name is Stephen Hyde!

If you want to save up to 50, 70, even 90% on your prescription drug costs, this is the book you need. Stephen S. S. Hyde, founder of Hyde Rx Services Corporation, is the leading authority on low-cost prescription drug benefits, and now hes offering individual consumers the expertise he provides to Americas employers and health plans. With the simple, cost-saving techniques outlined in this revolutionary book, you can save literally hundreds, even thousands of dollars on your familys prescription medications. Youll discover: The seven questions you should ask your doctor before he writes a prescription How your pharmacist can save you money How to get FREE prescription drugs How to save on generic, over-the-counter, and brand-name drugs How to get the lowest prices from retail, mail-order, online, and Canadian pharmacies How you may be eligible for discount cards and other assistance programs A Special Seniors Medicare Drug Benefit Report, and much more!With an appendix of directories, pharmacies, and websites to get you started, this book will pay for itself with your very first prescription!

About the AuthorSteve Hyde is the founder and CEO of Hyde Rx Services Corp., which provides low-cost prescription drug benefits to self-insuring companies all over the United States. In the 1970s he founded Peak Health Care, one of the nation's first HMOs, and many of his innovations are still being used today.Excerpt. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved.Chapter 1Who Is This Book For?Everybody Who Uses Prescription DrugsWhy This Book?There are two kinds of people in this country: those who take prescription drugs and those who will. The purpose of this book is simple: to show you how you can dramatically cut your cost of prescription drugs. Following the strategies in this book, you can usually save 50-90% on your prescription costs. Are you thinking that this is impossible--or that it's some sort of gimmick? It's not either. The fact is that most people don't know the simple techniques that can easily deliver huge savings on their prescription drugs.Here's just one example. Lipitor, which is used to treat high cholesterol, is the largest-selling drug in the world--\$11 billion in sales each year. One of the most frequent dosages is a single 10 mg tablet taken once a day to reduce LDL cholesterol (the bad cholesterol) by 25-30%. At retail, a thirty-day supply costs about \$65. Most people get started on Lipitor when their doctors give them a handful of free samples and a refillable prescription for twelve thirty-day supplies. Most of these patients go to their local drugstores to get them filled. If they are among the forty-five-million-plus Americans who don't have prescription drug insurance, they have to pay the full \$65 every thirty days. Very few of these consumers realize that they have many lower cost options that work just as well. For example:A Generic Drug. Approximately two-thirds of the consumers taking 10 mg Lipitor can just as safely and effectively lower their LDL cholesterol by taking a similar drug called lovastatin that costs about \$43 at retail.1 Savings:\$22/month over Lipitor (34% savings)Lower Cost Drugstore. By shopping around by phone or on the Internet with several different pharmacies, this same generic lovastatin can be purchased for as little as \$23 (Costco mail order, no membership required). Also, your local pharmacy may be willing to match such prices in order to keep you as a customer. Savings: \$43/month over Lipitor (66% savings)Tablet Splitting. Some patients may find that lovastatin doesn't work as well as Lipitor. For them, their doctors can write prescriptions for a half tablet daily of 20 mg Lipitor, and receive exactly the same medication in the same dose for about \$47. Savings: \$28/month over the 10 mg Lipitor (43% savings)Over a period of years, these savings add up to thousands of dollars for just this one drug. And there are hundreds of other drugs for which similar savings are not only possible, but easy for the consumer who knows what to do. With this book, you can and will save hundreds or thousands of dollars in prescription costs. I'm going to give you detailed, essential, and easily implemented information that will enable you to do this. I've been a healthcare insider, entrepreneur, and consumer advocate for thirty-five years. One of my companies, Peak Health Care, introduced health benefit innovations during the 1970s and 1980s that have since become industry standards in their markets, such as insurance coverage for physician office visits, full hospital coverage with no patient cost, and low-cost prescription drug benefits. Both members and their employers saved hundreds of millions of dollars on their healthcare as a result. More recently, my newest company, Hyde Rx Services Corporation, has brought the cost savings techniques of this book to employers and their employees. The result has been that thousands of members along with their employers are saving huge amounts of money for high quality prescription drug benefits. In Prescription Drugs at Half Price--or Less, I tell you the techniques that the drug industry doesn't want you to know about, why drugs cost so much, and how you can beat them at their own game.Who Is This Book For?This book is for anyone--insured or not--who wants to pay less money for his or her drugs. It may be you, or your parent, or a good friend who is tired of paying full retail prices for increasingly expensive prescription medications.1. Uninsured. You may be one of the 43 million people in the United States who have no health insurance coverage, or one of the millions more, like me, whose insurance doesn't cover

prescription drugs. You may be one of the 3.4 million U.S. workers who have lost their employer-provided coverage during the past three years;² or one of those who will soon lose such coverage. You may be a retiree whose former employer has cut back on prescription drug benefits or eliminated them altogether. This book can save you thousands of dollars.

2. Medicare Part D Drug Beneficiaries. You may be on Medicare, which has just initiated Part D drug coverage beginning in 2006, but which covers only about half of the drug costs for the average beneficiary. You are still left with large out-of-pocket deductibles, copayments, and holes in coverage. Every chapter in this book can help you save a lot of money on what Medicare doesn't cover. Also, Chapter 13 explains Medicare Part D and how to find the right plan for you from among the many plans offered.

3. High-Deductible Insurance. You may have high-deductible health insurance that doesn't kick in until after you've spent hundreds or even thousands of dollars each year. Until the deductible is reached, it's the same as having no insurance at all. I can help you save 50-90% on your drugs.

4. Insurance with High Copayments. Even if you are one of the lucky ones who has first-rate coverage through your employer, you are undoubtedly finding your copayments are costing you more and more every year. In many cases, your copayments can actually exceed the total price of the drugs you'll find by using the techniques detailed in this book. That's right, even insured consumers can save a lot of money with this book.

5. Health Savings Account. Finally, you may be one of the more than one million Americans participating in employer-sponsored Health Savings Account (HSA) plans.³ With an HSA, you receive a high-deductible insurance policy combined with an employer/employee-funded savings account which you can use to help pay for the deductible and other out-of-pocket costs. The idea behind HSAs is that, when you're spending money out of your own savings account, you'll feel like you're spending your own money (which you are), and that you will be a more savvy, price-conscious consumer of healthcare services. It's actually an excellent idea, but it practically forces you to become a much more informed, discerning prescription drug buyer. If you have an HSA, the techniques in this book will help make your savings account grow from year to year, rather than shrinking under the burden of ever-higher drug costs.

Regardless of your health insurance status (or lack thereof), you are almost certainly paying more than you need to for your prescription medications. Worse, the high cost of drugs may be preventing you from buying them at all. This book will help you get the drugs you need at the lowest possible cost.

Why Do Drugs Cost So Much? Why are prescription drugs so expensive and becoming more so? The U.S. consumer price inflation rate has been running at less than 2.5% for the past ten years, and yet drug costs have been rising by double-digit rates for just as long. And many new drugs are being priced at hundreds or even thousands of dollars per treatment. The problem is that drugs are not priced or sold under the same free-market rules that govern almost everything else you buy, from DVD players to cars to food to clothes to, well, almost everything.

Instead of manufacturers and retailers setting competitive prices to attract the business of price-sensitive customers, we have a system where drug companies can set arbitrarily high prices that are paid by insurance companies who have little power over the doctors who actually decide which drugs are prescribed for patients who don't care about cost because most have insurance. As far as the drug companies are concerned, you aren't even the customer. Your doctor is. Don't believe me? Just ask any drug representative who works for a brand name drug manufacturer. And since doctors don't pay for drugs, they have little reason to either know or care how much they cost. I can't imagine a more lucrative business model for any company than to have customers who could care less about the cost of the products they're ordering.

This system is clearly not working for you, because you are a price-sensitive customer. You want and deserve to get the best medication at the lowest price. This book will tell you how.

Chapter 2 Know the System to Beat the System

The Current Drug Pricing System Is Irrational

A lot of people, myself included, love Hershey's chocolate bars. They cost about sixty cents each, and people buy them by the boatload. Many can't imagine ever eating any other chocolate bar. So here's my advice to the Hershey company on how they can increase their revenues by almost a hundred times--overnight. All they have to do is increase the price of each Hershey bar to \$55. That would make them one of the most profitable companies in the history of the planet.

What's that you say? Where ever did I come up with such a cockamamie idea? I got it from an article in the Wall Street Journal reporting that the Italian drug company Sigma-Tau had just increased the price of its cancer drug Matulane from 60 to \$55 per pill.¹ So if a drug company can do it, why can't Hershey? It's obvious, of course, why Hershey can't do it. Nobody would pay \$55 for a candy bar, especially when store shelves are laden with competitive products for 1% of the price. So how can Sigma-Tau think it will get away with such an obviously irrational move? The answer goes a long way toward explaining why healthcare costs in general, and prescription drug costs specifically, are so high and getting higher at a record rate....