



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
STATE OF ILLINOIS

Dear Illinois Consumer,

For all too many Illinoisans, paying for prescription drugs has become a serious challenge.

Sadly, rising prescription drug prices have made some medications prohibitively expensive to seniors taking several prescriptions and patients without health insurance. Even patients with insurance may pay more for prescriptions than the uninsured, who may price shop more carefully.\*

With some careful planning, you could save a considerable amount of money on your prescriptions. If you have questions about your current health or prescription drug plans, or if you need help, please call my Health Care Helpline at 1-877-305-5145.



*Lisa Madigan*  
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ATTORNEY GENERAL

\*Pettenmaier, Andre J. and Zilun Wang, "Who Pays Higher Prices for Prescription Drugs?" *National Policy Report* No. 265. National Center for Policy Analysis. November 2003.



**LISA MADIGAN**  
ILLINOIS ATTORNEY GENERAL

Health Care  
*Helpline*

1-877-305-5145

TTY: 1-800-964-3013

**CHICAGO**

100 West Randolph Street  
Chicago, IL 60601  
(312) 814-3000  
TTY: (800) 964-3013

**SPRINGFIELD**

500 South Second Street  
Springfield, IL 62706  
(217) 782-1090  
TTY: (877) 844-5461

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Printed by authority of the State of Illinois. 09/04.10M.0760  
This material is available in alternate format upon request.



**CUTTING  
COSTS ON  
PRESCRIPTION  
DRUGS**



**LISA MADIGAN**  
ILLINOIS ATTORNEY GENERAL

# HOW TO SAVE ON PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

- BUY GENERICS**  
Generic drugs often cost considerably less than their brand name counterparts. Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you can purchase generic equivalents to your prescriptions.
- BUY OVER-THE-COUNTER MEDICATIONS**  
Ask your doctor if there is an over-the-counter drug equivalent to your prescription that could save you money.



- PRICE SHOP**  
You can often find significant savings by comparing prices among different pharmacies in the same town. Once you have shopped around, try to fill all your prescriptions at the same pharmacy. That way, your pharmacist will know every medication that you take and can ensure that you avoid any dangerous drug interactions.

- SENIOR CITIZEN AND PHARMACY DISCOUNTS**  
Your pharmacy may provide an unadvertised senior citizen discount. Often, you have to inquire about the discount in order to get it.

- BUY IN BULK**  
Prescription drugs often cost less if you buy them in larger quantities. Ask your doctor about purchasing your medications in three to six month supplies, which can be cheaper than refilling prescriptions monthly.

- ONLINE OR MAIL ORDER COMPANIES**  
If you decide to order your prescription online or through a mail order company, make sure the company is reputable and you receive the exact drug you were prescribed. Check with the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy ([www.nabp.net](http://www.nabp.net)) to determine whether a Web site is a licensed pharmacy in good standing.

## DRUG BUYING ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

### Illinois Rx Buying Club

1-866-215-3462  
TTY: 1-866-215-3479  
[www.IllinoisRxBuyingClub.com](http://www.IllinoisRxBuyingClub.com)

### Medicaid

1-800-252-8635  
TTY: 1-800-447-6404  
[www.dpaillinois.com/medical/medicaid.html](http://www.dpaillinois.com/medical/medicaid.html)

### Medicare

1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)  
TTY: 1-877-486-2048  
[www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov)

### Circuit Breaker/Pharmaceutical

**Assistance Program**  
1-800-624-2459  
TTY: 1-800-544-5304  
[www.revenue.state.il.us/CircuitBreaker/](http://www.revenue.state.il.us/CircuitBreaker/)

### SeniorCare

1-800-226-0768  
TTY: 1-877-204-1012  
[www.seniorcareillinois.com](http://www.seniorcareillinois.com)

### Drug Company Assistance Programs

Ask your doctor for more information.

*The Illinois Department on Aging offers information on state assistance programs and provides a chart comparing state and federal assistance programs. Call 1-800-252-8966 (voice & TTY) or visit their Web site at [www.state.il.us/laging](http://www.state.il.us/laging).*

**YOUR POTENTIAL SAVINGS**  
**97%**  
Amount you could save per prescription by price shopping†  
**77%**  
Amount you could save per prescription by purchasing generic drugs†