Patient Assistance Programs for Common Transplant Drugs

Are you eligible for assistance with payments for your transplant drugs? Anyone can enroll in manufacturer patient assistance programs (PAPs), but income and insurance documentation is required, and guidelines vary by manufacturer.

If you meet guidelines, the medication will be sent directly to you. Annual enrollment is required. Co-pay cards are essentially for patients with private insurance. If you participate in any federal or state-funded benefit program, including but not limited to Medicare or Medicaid, Medigap, VA, DOD or Tricare or where prohibited by law, you will not be eligible to use a co-pay card. Contact Mary Andrews, Social Worker, at 423-778-2174 with any questions.

Drug: Prograf (Tacrolimus, FK506)
PAP: Astellas Access Program 1-800-477-6472
30-day Quick Start Program: Yes, Call Mary to get started.

Drug: Neoral (Cyclosporine)
PAP: Novartis Patient Assistance Foundation 1-800-277-2254
Co-pay Card: Up to $200 off each month. Contact Mary for a card.

Drug: Rapamune (Sirolimus)
PAP: Pfizer RSVP Program 1-888-327-7787
30-day Quick Start Program: Yes, but insurance must be verified first. Must reapply each calendar year.
Co-pay Card: No.

Drug: Cellcept (Mycophenolate Mofetil)
PAP: Genetech Access to Care 1-888-754-7651
30-day Quick Start Program: Yes. Call Mary to get started.

Drug: Myfortic (Mycophenolic acid)
PAP: Novartis Patient Assistance Foundation 1-800-277-2254
30-day Quick Start Program: Yes, available as online voucher at http://www.myfortic.com/.
Co-pay Card: Up to $200 off each month. Contact Mary for a card.

Drug: Valcyte (valganciclovir)
PAP: Genetech Access to Care 1-888-754-7651
30-day Quick Start Program: Yes. Call Mary to get started.
Co-pay Card: Eligible patients can receive up to 80% toward out-of-pocket expenses on every Valcyte prescription and refill. Patients can receive up to $1,500, or up to $4,000, with demonstrated financial need, over a 12-month period. http://www.valyectopaycard.com.

Charitable foundations that assist with transplant drug payments include:
Kidney Foundation of Greater Chattanooga 423-265-4397
National Kidney Foundation 800-622-9010
Georgia Transplant Foundation 770-457-3796
**PAN (Patient Access Network) Foundation 866-316-7263
**Healthwell Foundation 800-675-8416

**These organizations provide medication assistance not only for transplant patients, but also for patients with cancer or chronic diseases. Patients who exceed the income guidelines for PAPs may be able to receive co-pay assistance with PAN or Healthwell.
It’s important to recognize those who are celebrating transplant milestones, so we want to acknowledge recipients with anniversaries. During this quarter, five recipients are celebrating their first anniversary! We also have seven recipients celebrating their 5-year anniversaries, two celebrating 17-year anniversaries, and one recipient each celebrating 15, 16, 17, 18, and 19-year anniversaries.

Due to privacy restrictions, names cannot be listed without written consent. However, please contact Rachel at 423-778-6675 if you would like for your name to be listed in the future.

Transplant Life is a publication of the UT Erlanger Kidney Transplant Center: Transplant Life is a quarterly newsletter designed for kidney transplant recipients.

All newsletter inquiries should be directed to Rachel Randolph, RN, at 423-778-6675 or Rachel.randolph@erlanger.org.

Meet Our Program Directors

Dr. Daniel Fisher serves as the Surgical Director for the UT Erlanger Kidney Transplant Center. With over 30 years as a transplant and vascular specialist, Dr. Fisher has worked with the Transplant program since its inception and performed the first kidney transplant in Chattanooga in 1989.

Board certified through the American Board of Surgery with special qualifications in vascular surgery; and a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons, he is also an Associate Professor for the Department of Surgery at the UT College of Medicine Chattanooga at Erlanger.

Dr. Fisher’s extensive academic education includes a fellowship in Vascular Surgery at the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston; a fellowship in Transplant Surgery at the University of Cambridge Clinical School in Cambridge, England; and a fellowship in Transplant Surgery at the University of Texas-SW Medical Center/Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas.

Dr. Donald Franklin joined UT Erlanger Kidney Transplant Center in 1990 and has served as the Medical Director since 2006. As Transplant Medical Director, he is responsible for quality initiatives within the program, maintenance of transplantation protocols, and interaction with the global transplant community.

Dr. Franklin participates in the American Society of Transplantation, the American Medical Association, and is a Medical Director for Dialysis Clinic, Incorporated.

Board certified in Internal Medicine and Nephrology, he is also a Clinical Assistant Instructor of Internal Medicine at the UT College of Medicine Chattanooga at Erlanger. Dr. Franklin received his medical degree at the Medical College of Georgia, Augusta, completed his internal medicine residency at the UT College of Medicine Chattanooga at Erlanger, and obtained his Nephrology fellowship at Vanderbilt University.

Next issue: Meet Dr. Ralph Stafford, Dr. Michael Rae and Dr. Phillip Smith

Happy Anniversary!

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Congratulations to:

* Nishaben Chaudhari, Chattanooga
* Lamotta McMahan, Cleveland, TN
* Jewel Billups, Chattanooga
* Timothy Graham, Jasper, TN
* Quinesha Wright, Chattanooga
* Randall Franks, Albertville, AL
* Robert Jones, Dalton, GA

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Kidney Transplant Waiting Lists

As of January 2012:

112,657 patients waiting for transplants, including 62,648 multicultural and 1,800 pediatric patients

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