

505.26 Prescription drug assistance clearinghouse program.

1. The commissioner of insurance shall establish and administer a prescription drug assistance clearinghouse program to improve access to prescription drugs for individuals who have no or inadequate health insurance or other resources for the purchase of medically necessary prescription drugs and to assist individuals in accessing programs offered by pharmaceutical manufacturers that provide free or discounted prescription drugs or provide coverage for prescription drugs.
2. The commissioner of insurance shall utilize computer software programs to do all of the following:
 - a. Provide a clearinghouse to assist individuals in accessing manufacturer-sponsored prescription drug assistance programs for which they may be eligible, including listing the eligibility requirements for pharmaceutical assistance programs offered by manufacturers.
 - b. Disseminate information about and assist individuals in assessing pharmaceutical discount or insurance programs that may be beneficial.
 - c. Serve as a resource for pharmaceutical benefit issues.
 - d. Assist individuals in making application to and enrolling in the pharmaceutical assistance program most appropriate for the individual.
 - e. Maintain a listing of community-based pharmacy assistance programs for additional assistance.
3. The commissioner of insurance shall provide information to pharmacies, physicians, other appropriate health care providers, and the general public regarding the program and about manufacturer-sponsored prescription drug assistance programs.
4. The commissioner of insurance shall notify pharmaceutical manufacturers doing business in this state of the prescription drug assistance clearinghouse program, and every pharmaceutical manufacturer that does business in this state that offers a pharmaceutical assistance program shall notify the commissioner of the existence of the program, the prescription drugs covered by the program, and all information necessary for application for assistance through the program. The commissioner of insurance shall provide for ongoing review and assessment of pharmaceutical discount or insurance programs.
5. The commissioner of insurance may work with pharmaceutical manufacturers to develop a simplified system to assist individuals in accessing pharmaceutical assistance programs. The system may include a simplified, uniform application process or a voucher system for dispensing prescription drugs through local pharmacies.
6. The commissioner of insurance shall monitor and evaluate the prescription drug assistance clearinghouse program including but not limited to the number of individuals served, the length and types of services provided, and any other measurable data available to assess the effectiveness of the program. The commissioner shall make recommendations for improvement of the program and shall identify and make recommendations regarding additional strategies to improve access to prescription drugs for citizens who have no or inadequate health insurance or other resources for the purchase of prescription drugs.
7. The commissioner of insurance shall submit a report regarding the effectiveness of the program and including any recommendations for improvement of the program to the governor and the general assembly on or before December 15, annually. If a national pharmaceutical assistance program is established by a public or private entity, the commissioner of insurance shall include in the annual report a recommendation regarding the continuation or elimination of the state prescription drug assistance clearinghouse program.

