

Medical Assistance Copayments

A Factsheet for Consumers



If you lose your General Assistance cash benefit on August 1, 2012, you can still get medical care. Your Medical Assistance will not change, even though your cash assistance is ending.

What if I cannot afford my medical co-pays?

If you cannot afford the co-pay, your pharmacist or doctor **CANNOT** refuse to give you medications or refuse to treat you.

Tell your provider if you cannot afford to pay. Your provider has to treat you, but you will still owe the provider the co-pay.

What if my provider won't treat me because I can't pay?

1. Show the provider this factsheet.
2. If the pharmacist or doctor still insists on the co-pay upfront, call your MA managed care plan (Keystone Mercy, for example) and complain.

If you use the ACCESS card, call the Medical Assistance Call Center at (800) 537-8862, option 2, to complain.

3. Call the Pennsylvania Health Law Project at (800) 274-3258 if you are still having problems.

Legal Authority

A provider participating in the program *may not* deny covered care or services to an eligible MA recipient because of the recipient's inability to pay the copayment amount. This paragraph does not change the fact that the recipient is liable for the copayment, and it does not prevent the provider from attempting to collect the copayment amount.

55 Pa. Code § 1101.63(b)(8) (emphasis added)