

Medical Assistance (MA) Copayments

A Factsheet for Consumers



What if I can't afford my MA 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 healthcare provider if you cannot afford to pay. Your provider must treat you, but you will still owe the provider the co-pay.

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)

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 First, 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 1-800-274-3258 if you are still having problems.

This publication is intended to provide general legal information, not legal advice. Each person's situation is different. If you have questions about how the law applies to your situation, please call PHLP's Helpline at 1-800-274-3258.

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The Pennsylvania Health Law Project is a nonprofit legal services organization.

www.phlp.org ■ 1-800-274-3258