



MEDIA RELEASE

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Montgomery County Hospital District Launches Prescription Drug Discount Card That Can Be Used by All Montgomery County Residents

Discount Cards Offering Average Savings Of 20 Percent Off Retail Price

*****MEDIA ALERT*****

A Media Briefing to discuss the details of the new discount program will take place on Wednesday, October 10, 2007 at 1:30 p.m. at the Montgomery County Hospital District Administrative offices, 200 RiverPointe Drive #200 in Conroe, Texas.

[Conroe, TX] — The Montgomery County Hospital District (MCHD) today launched a discount card program to help consumers cope with the high price of prescription drugs. MCHD is making free prescription drug discount cards available to Montgomery County residents under a program, sponsored by the National Association of Counties (NACo), that offers average savings of 20 percent off the retail price of commonly prescribed drugs.

The cards may be used by all county residents, regardless of age, income, or existing health coverage, and are accepted at participating pharmacies. In addition to the large network of pharmacies in the county, more than 59,000 participating retail pharmacies also will honor the NACo prescription discount card.

“The Montgomery County Hospital District is proud to be participating with NACo to offer this benefit to the residents of our county.” said Allen Johnson, CEO of MCHD. “The NACo prescription discount card is a program used throughout the nation to offer significant savings for the uninsured and underinsured, and even those fortunate to have prescription coverage can use the card to save money on drugs that are not covered by their health plan. Residents do not have to be Medicare beneficiaries or a participant in our Health Care Assistance Program to be eligible for this program.”

Best of all, there is no cost to county taxpayers of Montgomery County to make these money saving cards available to our residents.

“Using the NACo prescription discount card is easy,” said Nicole Cowell (Health Care Assistance Program Manager for MCHD). “Simply present it at a participating pharmacy. There is no enrollment form, no membership fee and no restrictions or limits on frequency of use. Cardholders and their family members may use the card any time their prescriptions are not covered by insurance.”

The discount card program is administered by Caremark Rx, Inc.

A Fact Sheet provided by NACo is attached.

The National Association of Counties (NACo) is the only national organization that represents county governments in the United States. Founded in 1935, NACo provides essential services to the nation’s 3,066 counties. NACo advances issues with a unified voice before the federal government, improves the public’s understanding of county government, assists counties in finding and sharing innovative solutions through education and research, and provides value-added services to save counties and taxpayers money. For more information about NACo, visit www.naco.org.

The Montgomery County Hospital District (MCHD) is a political subdivision of the State of Texas. MCHD was established through special legislation in 1977 to provide healthcare for needy residents of the county. In addition to its legislative charge to provide indigent care, MCHD operates the county's emergency medical response, 800 Trunked Radio System, and offers a variety of community and professional education programs. For more information about MCHD visit www.mchd-tx.org.

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NACo PRESCRIPTION DISCOUNT CARD PROGRAM FACT SHEET

- What It Is:** The NACo drug discount card program helps consumers save money on their prescription medications any time their prescriptions are not covered by insurance. The free cards are distributed in the sponsoring county and may be used at any participating retail pharmacy. The discount card is not insurance.
- Savings:** Savings average 20 percent; some discounts may be more, and some less, depending on the drug and quantity purchased. Cardholders are eligible for higher discounts on a three-month supply of some medications through mail service. Cardholders also can save on pet prescriptions at participating retail pharmacies.
- Who It's For:** The cards may be used by all county residents, regardless of age, income or existing health coverage. There is no enrollment form, no membership fee and no restrictions or limits on frequency of use. Cardholders and their family members may use the card any time their prescriptions are not covered by insurance.
- What It Costs:** Unlike many other card programs, there is no enrollment cost or membership fee. The cardholder pays the negotiated discount price or the pharmacy's retail price, whichever is lower. The average discount is 20 percent.
- Participating Pharmacies:** More than 57,000 pharmacies nationwide accept the card, including most chain pharmacies and many independents. Wal-Mart pharmacies participate in the program.
- Additional Benefits:** The program has a safety feature that alerts pharmacists when one drug may conflict with another medication the cardholder is taking, if the prescriptions were obtained with the NACo discount card.
- The NACo discount card program remains a useful option now that Medicare Part D has been implemented. For example, the card can be used when a Medicare Part D plan doesn't cover a drug.
- About Caremark:** The program is administered by Caremark Rx, Inc., a leading pharmaceutical services company with broad experience in managing drug discount card programs for sponsoring clients. Caremark negotiates with pharmacies to offer a discount off their retail prices. Most pharmacies contract to participate because it draws customers to their stores. Caremark derives revenue from the program in the form of a small fee that the pharmacy pays on each transaction. The fee is a small fraction of the total transaction amount.
- Discount Card Details**
- Rebates:** Few manufacturers pay rebates on the discount card program. Caremark shares a portion of the rebate with the consumer at the point of sale via an increased discount. The retail pharmacy is reimbursed for this additional discount.
- Data Collection:** Cardholder information remains confidential and is not resold to a third-party for any reason.
- Drug Distribution:** Caremark negotiates with retail pharmacies to offer discounts off retail prices at the point of purchase. Some news reports have incorrectly stated that Caremark purchases prescription drugs and distributes them to retail pharmacies.