

Novartis Makes Accessing Prescription Assistance and Disease Management Programs Simpler and Easier for Patients

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Novartis (News/Aktienkurs) Pharmaceuticals Corporation today announced the launch of Patient Assistance Now -- a new, comprehensive resource that integrates both Novartis and non-Novartis programs that may help uninsured Americans afford their Novartis medicines and find information to take care of their health. Now patients can access an easy-to-use Web site that provides specific information about programs and services available. Patients and caregivers can visit for a complete list.

-- Novartis Clinical Trials, including information to help patients make educated decisions about participating in a clinical trial and understanding the clinical trial process.

-- Novartis Medicines, including links to information on Novartis prescription medications.

"Too many Americans feel frustrated and worried about their ability to get the medicines they need to manage their health. Many important prescription drug programs and educational resources offer assistance, yet unfortunately, few people know these exist or they have difficulty finding information," said Myrl Weinberg, President of the National Health Council. "By putting all the information in one place, programs such as Patient Assistance Now provide patients with easier access to information, including prescription drug assistance programs and disease education. Such programs play a vital role in helping patients get the care and resources they need."

Novartis is partnering with health organizations and working with healthcare providers and elected officials to spread further awareness about Patient Assistance Now to those who need help accessing the prescription medicines and health information they need.

"I applaud Novartis for taking action to address the need of all Americans to have access to quality healthcare," said Tommy G. Thompson, Former Secretary, US Department of Health and Human Services. "Uninsured patients are often sicker and have higher overall medical costs due to untreated or poorly managed conditions. Today, Novartis takes us a step in the right direction by improving access to programs that can immediately help people who can't afford the medicines they need."

The Patient Assistance Now program builds on Novartis Group initiatives dedicated to ensuring that patients have access to quality healthcare:

-- In 2007, Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation provided medicines with a value of more than USD 69 million free to nearly 109,000 Americans through the Novartis Patient Assistance Foundation, Inc.

-- Last year, Novartis provided more than 66 million treatments of Coartem, a life-saving malaria medicine, without profit, for patients in Africa

-- Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation works with over 50 free clinics and organizations in 13 states, and has provided medicines with a value of more than USD 5 million to 8,000 uninsured patients

-- Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation participates in the Partnership for Prescription Assistance (PPA), a single point of access to more than 475 patient assistance programs that has matched more than five million patients to one or more patient assistance programs

-- Through a partnership with AmeriCares, a nonprofit disaster relief and humanitarian aid organization, Novartis Group companies provided short-dated products with a value of USD 104 million for international medical missions between 1997 and 2003

-- Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation is a founding member of Together Rx Access(TM), a prescription savings card that helps uninsured Americans better afford the prescription medicines they need

Patients and caregivers who need help accessing Novartis medicines and finding information to help manage their health can visit .

References

(1) "Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2006." U.S. Census Bureau, August 2007, table 6, p. 21.

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