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Prescription discount cards save consumers \$313K in three years

Arapahoe County citizens enjoy reduced price on drugs not covered by insurance

Littleton, Colo. – Metro-area residents saved \$313,984 using a prescription drug discount card provided by Arapahoe County since July 2008. The cards are sponsored by the National Association of Counties, and offer a discount off the retail price of prescription medications that are not covered by insurance, such as Medicaid, Medicare, private or employer-sponsored health plans.

"If you have been prescribed a medication that is not covered by your insurance company's formulary, we invite you to pick up a free NACo discount card and see if it can help you to save money on your prescription," said Arapahoe County Commissioner Frank Weddig.

Residents can pick up the discount card at one of many participating locations, or print a card online at www.caremark.com/naco/ and present it to a local pharmacist at check-out to see if a discount can be applied. There is no enrollment fee and no limit to how many times the cards can be used. The cards are accepted at 90 percent of the County's pharmacies and more than 59,000 pharmacies nationwide.

Between July 2010 and June 2011, the discount drug cards were presented at pharmacies 5,795 times. In cases where the NACo card could offer the lowest price, consumers received an average discount of \$22.30 on each drug purchase. That represents an average savings of 23.7 percent off the retail price of prescribed drugs and a total savings to County citizens of \$149,743 over the year.

The discount card program is administered by Caremark Rx, Inc., which negotiates the discounts directly with participating pharmacies. If a pharmacy prices a particular medication lower than the discount rate available with the NACo card, the consumer will receive the lower price.

Neither NACo nor the participating counties receive any revenue from the program. There also is no cost to the County, taxpayers or consumers to participate.

The discount cards are available at various Arapahoe County buildings, and the cities of Centennial, Deer Trail, Englewood, Littleton and Sheridan, as well as the Aurora Library District.

For specific locations or to request a supply of the cards for your business to make available to the public, please call 303-738-8040 or visit www.co.arapahoe.co.us. County residents also can call 1-877-321-2652 toll free or visit www.caremark.com/naco to learn how the discount can benefit them.

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