



# Texas THMP SPAP - 2017

The THMP State Pharmacy Assistance Program assists THMP enrollees who have Medicare access prescription drugs through a Medicare Part D prescription drug plan. The SPAP helps pay for THMP approved medications as well as medications to help with side effects and other conditions as related to the THMP approved medications.

## How will I get my medications?

To get your medications you will need to go to a participating THMP SPAP pharmacy. The pharmacist will need your SPAP ID card or approval letter, Medicare Part D Prescription drug card and valid prescriptions. Using your ID cards, the pharmacist will submit a claim to your Part D Plan. Once your Part D Plan has paid its portion of your medication, the pharmacist will submit the remaining balance to the Texas THMP SPAP. As long as your medication is approved by your Medicare Part D plan and is a Medicare approved drug, the SPAP will pay the remaining out-of-pocket costs for your prescription.

## How do I change my Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Plan?

You are able to switch plans during open enrollment from October 15<sup>th</sup> through December 7<sup>th</sup> for 2017. Before you change plans, make sure all of the medications you take are covered by the plan. You may find out what the plans cover by looking on the Medicare website ([www.Medicare.gov](http://www.Medicare.gov)), by calling 1-800-MEDICARE or by calling the plan directly. If you need help please call 1-800-MEDICARE, talk with your pharmacist, doctor or case manager, or call the Texas THMP SPAP at 1-800-255-1090 option 4.

## How much does a Medicare Part D Plan cost?

In 201, the average plan premium is around \$34.00 per month and the least expensive premium is \$17.00 per month. Currently you will be responsible for paying the monthly premium, but remember the SPAP will pay the other medication costs, including the drug deductible, co-pays and costs during the coverage gap. Once enrolled in a plan you can either pay the premium to the prescription drug plan directly or have the payment deducted from your Social Security check.

Help with plan premiums may also be available from your local service organization; contact your case manager or doctor's office to find out if this help is available in your area of the state. You can also contact the THMP at 1-800-255-1090 and speak with the SPAP coordinator for additional resource information. If you do not stay enrolled in a plan, the THMP SPAP will not help you pay for your medications.

## What medications will the Texas THMP SPAP cover?

If the medication is covered by your Part D plan and the medication is not a Medicare excluded drug, the SPAP will help you pay for your medication. Some plans include Medicare-excluded drugs on the plan formulary as a supplement; although those medications are listed on that plan's formulary, the SPAP will not pay for those medications. If a medication is not covered by the Part D plan you choose, the SPAP will not be able to help you with obtaining that medication. All of the plans are required to cover all of the FDA-approved anti-retroviral medications used in the treatment of your disease; however, it is still important to check with your plan to make sure that all of your antiretroviral medications are covered. Some antiretroviral medications need prior approval; therefore, you will have to follow your plan's rules and work with your doctor's office to get these approvals.

## How much will my medications cost?

You won't have to pay anything at the pharmacy as long as you use a THMP SPAP in-network pharmacy, your medications are on your Medicare Part D plan formulary and the medication is approved by Medicare. If you are charged for a medication by the pharmacy and you think it should be covered by the SPAP, call the SPAP at 1-800-255-1090 or ask the Pharmacist to call Ramsell Corporation at 1-888-311-7632. Keep in mind, if your Part D Plan does not cover a certain medication, the SPAP won't be able to help you with that medication. You are also responsible for paying any extra fees charged by your plan if you buy any of the excluded medications.

## How will Health Care Reform and the donut hole closing affect me in 2017?

According to the new healthcare law, in 2017, if you enter the prescription drug donut hole, your brand named prescriptions will be processed at a 40% discount by the pharmaceutical companies and the government subsidy paid by your plan will be 10%. **You will not be affected by this change**, the SPAP will continue to pay your out-of-pocket costs during the coverage gap, as long as your medication is on your Medicare Part D plan

formulary and the medication is not a Medicare excluded drug.

### What pharmacies can I use?

You must use a pharmacy that works with your plan and the THMP SPAP. A list of THMP SPAP pharmacies can be found at

<http://www.ramsellcorp.com/individuals/tx.aspx> To find a pharmacy near you, call Ramsell Corporation at 1-888-311-7632 or the THMP at 1-800-255-1090 or go to the website listed above. Contact your plan if you have questions about the plan's pharmacy network.

### What is the Low Income Subsidy & how do I apply?

Like the THMP SPAP, the Low Income Subsidy (LIS, also known as Extra Help) is a Federal program that helps with Medicare Part D Costs. All applicants in the THMP SPAP have to apply for this assistance. If you qualify for the full LIS, you'll be able to get benefits directly from Medicare and will **not** need help from the SPAP. If you are denied the LIS or are approved for the partial LIS, you'll be eligible for the SPAP as long as you continue to meet the other SPAP eligibility requirements. Please reapply for the LIS program if your gross income drops below \$15,800 for a household of one.

To apply for the LIS, call the Social Security Administration (SSA) at 1-800-772-1213, or visit their website at [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov) to apply online. To have an application mailed to you, please call the Texas THMP SPAP at 1-800-255-1090.

### How often do I need to reapply for the SPAP?

The Texas THMP SPAP will mail you a renewal application when it is time for you to reapply for the assistance. You must tell the Texas THMP SPAP if your household income increases, your marital status changes, or your Medicare benefits end. It is also important to let the Texas THMP SPAP know if your address or phone number changes.

Medications will be placed on hold for any returned mail to the THMP SPAP, so please keep your address up to date. To report any of these changes, call the SPAP at 1-800-255.

### THMP SPAP Eligibility Requirements –

All of the requirements listed below must be met:

- Eligible for the Texas HIV Medication Program
  - Adjusted gross income less than 200% of the federal poverty level (\$23,760 for a single person or \$32,040 for a married couple in 2016),
  - a Texas resident, and
  - meets all other THMP eligibility requirements
- Eligible for Parts A and/or B Medicare
- Enrolled in a Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Plan
- Denied the full Low Income Subsidy or approved for the partial subsidy for prescription drug assistance by the Social Security Administration. A complete copy of the letter is required.

### Questions or Concerns

Please call the THMP at 1-800-255-1090 option 4 and ask to speak with Juliet Garcia 512-533-3004 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

**Este es un mensaje IMPORTANTE para clientes Del Programa de THMP y que tienen Medicare sobre el nuevo programa de cobertura de Medicare Para Medicinas Recetadas llamada Medicare RX (Medicare Parte D). Si necesita información en Español, favor de llamar al 1-800-255-1090 (ext 3006) y pedir hablar con Becky Ruiz.**