

In the summer of 2006 United Way of Citrus County, Citrus County Health Department and Citrus County Community Services came together to address the need for low-cost prescription medications for Citrus County residents. This group researched the problem, considered many options and found a model program in Clearwater, Florida. With foundation support, the Neighborly Pharmacy located in Clearwater, provides low-cost medications to seniors. The group worked together to bring a similar model to Citrus County. United Way of Citrus County led the project by securing grant funding, Citrus County Board of County Commissioners provided building space, Citrus County Community Services Department coordinated the construction and Citrus County Health Department/ George A. Dame Community Health Center agreed to staff and operate the pharmacy.

The Citrus County Health Department/George A. Dame Community Health Center pharmacy provides low-cost prescription medications to the uninsured/underinsured.

Through a special government-sponsored purchasing program, the pharmacy is able to purchase these medications at a reduced rate and pass the savings on to its clients. There are federal regulations in place that ensure that this tax-payer supported program provides these medications to those in our community qualifying as low-income.

Through the work of the community partners, the Community Pharmacy opened earlier this month. The pharmacy is located at the Citrus County Resource Center, 2804 Marc Knighton Ct., Lecanto. The pharmacy is open Monday through Friday 8am until 5 pm and is closed between 12 to 1 pm daily. It is closed on holidays. If the medication is in stock, your prescription can be filled while you wait. Wait times vary, but generally prescriptions can be filled within 15 minutes.

Who can purchase medications through the Community Pharmacy?

Due to federal regulations, only registered clients of the Citrus County Health Department/George A. Dame Community Health Center (CCHD/GADCHC) that have completed income eligibility. There is not an age requirement.

In addition to its primary care services, the CCHD/GADCHC has opened 3 walk-in urgent care sites. This expansion provides greater access to care. Clients registered through any medical, dental or urgent care site are now eligible for pharmacy services.

How can I qualify for reduced cost medications?

As a client of the CCHD/GADCHC you will be asked to complete an income eligibility application. You will be required to provide information regarding your income and family size. Eligibility is based on current federal poverty guidelines.

How much will I pay?

The amount that you will pay depends on your financial status. Medications are priced on a sliding fee scale depending on income eligibility. The cost of the medication is based on a nominal filling fee plus the cost of the medication.

What forms of payment does the Community Pharmacy accept?

Medications may be paid for by cash, check or credit cards (Master Card, Visa or Discover).

Will the Community Pharmacy fill my prescription from my specialist or Emergency Room physician?

Yes, if you are a registered client of the CCHD/GADCHC.

Will the Community Pharmacy provide my medications at the lowest cost?

The pharmacy staff will make every effort to ensure that you are paying the lowest cost. If you can purchase your medication for a lower cost at another pharmacy in the community, the pharmacy staff will tell you. Since 2006, when the Community Pharmacy was first envisioned, many of the pharmacies in the community now offer free antibiotics or prescriptions for \$4.00.

Does the Community Pharmacy have every medication available?

The Community Pharmacy does not carry Controlled Substances or Narcotics. If you need a medication that the Community Pharmacy does not carry (other than controlled substances), the medication can be ordered and should be available within 24 hours.

How is the Community Pharmacy different than the CCHD/GADCHC pharmacy?

The Community Pharmacy is much larger than the previous CCHD/GADCHC Pharmacy allowing more space for a larger inventory. Currently the CCHD/GADCHC serves over 16,000 people. These individuals will now have access to a more comprehensive inventory of prescription drugs. Additionally, in the past the CCHD/GADCHC pharmacy only honored prescriptions written by CCHD/GADCHC practitioners; the Community Pharmacy can now fill prescriptions for CCHD/GADCHC clients written by specialty providers.

I take an expensive medication for a chronic condition. I can't afford the medication- even with the sliding fee. Can the Community Pharmacy help?

There are hundreds of medications that can be obtained at no cost or at a very low cost through manufacturer-sponsored patient assistance programs. The Community Pharmacy Indigent Drug Program Coordinator can assist individuals in completing the application and process the required paper work. Only clients of the CCHD/GADCHC are eligible for this program.

If I am not a client of the Citrus County Health Department/George A. Dame Community Health Center and/or I do not qualify for the sliding fee scale, can the Community Pharmacy still help me?

The Community Pharmacy can provide discount prescription cards from United Way's Family Wise Program, or the Citrus County Board of County Commissioners' discount pharmacy card program. These cards can be used at local retail pharmacies and can provide up to a 30% discount

For additional information regarding pharmacy services contact Renee at 352-249-9258 x 302 or visit us at our web site at www.citruscountyhealth.org. To schedule an appointment call 352-527-0247.