

## Discounted Rx cards in Big Apple

Written by Administrator  
Sunday, 29 May 2011 12:41

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Mayor Michael Bloomberg has reminded all New Yorkers to take advantage of the city's newly issued BigAppleRx card.

If you already have insurance and you already get a discount on your prescriptions this card probably won't help much.

The programs designed mostly for those people who have no insurance at all or very little.

Launched on May 18, the card will offer an average discount of 47 percent.

For example, Zocor's retail cost is \$69.61, after the big apple discount, \$18.51.

Glyburide for diabetes usually runs \$96.08.

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After the discount just \$28.21.

And finally the anti-inflammatory Celebrex almost \$104 retail, but \$84.17 with the discount.

City Hall devised the discount program with a private company that will connect 85 percent of all pharmacies in the city.

“It is a bunch of stores that want to sell to a bigger group and are willing to give a volume discount plain and simple,” said Bloomberg.

Customers, even those with plenty of insurance said they’re excited about the possibility of a discount.

The discount could help when insurance companies won’t pay for certain medicines.

But again it’s mostly designed to help those with no insurance, which at last count was 1.2 million New Yorkers.

The card can be used at 2,000 pharmacies citywide, including most major drugstores and supermarket chains like Target, and is free of charge regardless of age, citizenship or health insurance status.

The discount cards can be downloaded at [www.bigapplerx.com](http://www.bigapplerx.com) or obtained by calling 311, the city’s help line.

There’s also an iPhone app for the BigAppleRx card.

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Users can present the card to their pharmacist right from their phone.

And pet medications, if there is a human alternative that can be picked up at a participating pharmacy, are also included.

NYC is joining cities around the country in offering a discount card.

Residents in a Texas county have saved \$341,000 since a card was introduced last year; those living in Broward County, Florida, saved nearly \$600,000; in Phoenix, Arizona, savings added up to \$714,000, and closer to home, Albany County has saved \$1.1 million.