

## **HELP WITH MEDICAL CARE AND PRESCRIPTIONS FOR PERSONS IN MECKLENBURG COUNTY WHO DON'T HAVE MEDICAID OR MEDICARE**

The Medicaid income limit for Aged, Blind and Disabled persons is \$903 per month for one person and \$1,215 per month for a couple. Those limits will increase in 2010. If you have unearned income (like Social Security), \$20 of that income is not counted. If you or your spouse has earned income, over half of that income is not counted. Persons who got SSI benefits in the past may be able to get Medicaid with a higher income. Disabled persons who work part-time can have income up to twice the above limits. Children may be able to get Medicaid even if their families have higher incomes than these limits.

Some services are available in Mecklenburg County to help access medical care and prescriptions for persons who do not have Medicaid or Medicare. Below is a brief description of those programs. Call the phone numbers below to find out more about these programs.

### ▪ **How do I meet a Medicaid deductible?**

A deductible is met the day that the total amount of your medical expenses paid equals the deductible amount that you must meet. *If you do not have Medicare* and you are admitted to the hospital overnight, this will meet your deductible for the next six months. However, Medicaid will not pay that hospital bill or other bills used to meet your deductible. You must reapply for Medicaid at DSS the month in which you were in the hospital (not the next month). You can also meet your deductible with any medical bills you owe for yourself, your spouse, or your minor child. Call Social Services at (704) 336-3150 for more information.

### ▪ **What is the CMC Sliding Scale?**

Carolinas Medical Center has three clinics (Myers Park, Biddlepoint, Northpark) offering medical care and prescriptions to uninsured persons at very low rates, depending on your income. To sign up for the sliding scale program you must go to CMC-Myers Park at 1350 S. Kings Drive/ Charlotte, NC at least one day before your clinic appointment. There is a waiting list for new appointments so call right away. To be eligible for the program you must bring with you proof of the following:

- US Citizenship or Legal Resident Status
- Identification and Mecklenburg County residence
- Income

You can contact the CMC-Sliding Scale Program at (704) 446-1668.

### ▪ **What does "PRO" mean?**

PRO stands for "Physicians Reach Out." This is a special program offered by Community Health Services to help provide medical care and prescriptions for uninsured people in Mecklenburg County who otherwise would not have access to doctors and prescriptions. To be eligible, you must:

- Have applied for and been denied Medicare and Medicaid. If you are in either of these programs, you do not qualify for PRO.
- You do not qualify if you have participated in the sliding scale program at CMC within the last 2 years.
- You do not have to be a citizen or legal immigrant.
- Your monthly income is \$1,805 or less for a single person or \$2,428 or less for a married couple.
- You do need proof of your income, a photo ID, bank statements, and wage stubs.

If you are accepted into the program, you will be given a primary doctor and can get help with prescriptions. Adults are referred to MedAssist for prescriptions. The charge for children is \$7 for generic prescriptions and \$50 for brand name prescriptions. PRO is located at 601 East 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 140, Charlotte, NC 28202 (704) 375-0172.

▪ **What is MedAssist?**

There are two programs available through MedAssist.

- The first program provides free or low cost medications to uninsured persons who are:
  - Between 18 and 65 years of age,
  - Meet income limits.
  - Are referred by PRO or a free clinic
  - Are referred by the ER or a family physician
- The second program helps people of all ages get prescriptions directly from the companies that make the medications. A Social Worker will help you get the right forms for the prescriptions that you need and help you fill them out. You then take the forms to your doctor to be signed. After they are signed you will send them directly to the drug companies. To be eligible, you must meet income limits.

**\*\* If you receive Medicaid or Medicare, you are not eligible for the MedAssist program.**

MedAssist is located at 5516 Central Avenue/ Charlotte, NC. You can contact the MedAssist program by phone at (704) 536-1790.

▪ **What is Charlotte Community Health Clinic?**

The CCHC provides quality medical care to uninsured persons in Mecklenburg County. CCHC does have people on staff to assist Spanish-speaking clients. In order to be eligible for help through CCHC you have to meet the following:

- Be 19 years of age or older above
- Be Uninsured (No Medicare, Medicaid or VA benefits)
- Live in Mecklenburg County
- Be in the 200% Federal Poverty Level Household range
- Not receiving primary care through other free clinic, CMC clinics, PRO, or Metrolina Comprehensive Health Services

To apply to become a CCHC patient you can fill out an application at 3040-A Eastway Drive Charlotte, NC 28205. Call 704-316-6561 for more information.

▪ **What is the Lions Eye Clinic?**

The Lions Clinic provides vocational rehabilitation and employment opportunities to individuals who are blind or visually impaired and provides eye health care, including prescription eyeglasses, for those within our community who need financial assistance.

Who is Eligible for Services?

Any person who:

- Is referred to through Mecklenburg County Schools, Mecklenburg County or North Carolina State Department of Health and Human Services, local Lions Clubs, The Salvation Army, area churches or other charitable organizations.
- Is uninsured or uninsurable and has a low income.

An appointment must be made before visiting the Eye Clinic. Call **704-599-4760 to schedule an appointment.**