

Connecticut Pharmaceutical Assistance Contract to the Elderly and the Disabled Program (ConnPACE)

Description:

ConnPACE is a state-funded program that helps eligible elderly individuals, age 65 or older, and persons over the age of 18 with disabilities, who are NOT eligible for Medicare, pay for certain prescription drugs, insulin, and insulin syringes. The program allows for a 30-day supply or 120 units (tablets or capsules), whichever is greater, for each prescription. Participants pay an annual enrollment fee of \$45 and a maximum co-payment of \$16.25 for each prescription when their ConnPACE cards are shown at the local pharmacy. Participants must re-enroll every year; renewal forms are automatically mailed to participants 75 days before their benefits expire. Forms should be completed at least 45 days before the card's expiration date to prevent a lapse in coverage.

The ConnPACE open enrollment period is from November 15 to December 31 of each year. This period is the only time during which new applicants can be considered for the program. The only exception to the open enrollment period is for individuals who are within 31 days of their 65th birthday or becoming eligible for Social Security Disability or Supplemental Security Income.

ConnPACE is not available to those with other insurance that covers any portion of the cost for prescription medications, those who have deductible insurance plans that include prescription drug coverage, or those who receive Medicare or Medicaid. Benefits may be received while individuals meet their Medicaid spend-down requirement. Persons may also be enrolled in Blue Cross 65 High/Low Option Plan and receive ConnPACE benefits before hospitalization and after Blue Cross benefits have been exhausted.

Individuals with private insurance plans with maximum benefits can receive ConnPACE benefits when they exhaust the maximum benefit amount specified in their plans. Applications can be submitted to ConnPACE before the maximum benefit is met. To receive benefits, ConnPACE must receive a letter from the insurance company stating the date on which the maximum benefit was met.

ConnPACE does not cover drugs made by a pharmaceutical company that does not participate in ConnPACE's Drug Rebate Program. The Department of Social Services may, however, make exceptions based upon the medical needs of the ConnPACE participant. Per Connecticut General Statutes, Sections 17b-490 to 17b-498, the following drugs are not covered: antihistamines, contraceptives, cough preparations, diet pills, experimental drugs, less than effective drugs as designated by the Federal Drug Administration (FDA), multivitamin, drugs prescribed for cosmetic purposes,

smoking cessation gum , most over-the-counter drugs, and drugs that are dispensed by pharmacies other than a ConnPACE designated pharmacy

Eligibility Requirements, Service Areas, and Program Year:

Eligibility Requirements:

- Must be a Connecticut resident for at least six months prior to filing an application.
- Must be age 65 or older or at least age 18 with a disability and receiving disability benefits under the Social Security Disability Program or the Supplemental Security Income Program.
- Annual adjusted gross income for an individual cannot exceed \$25,100; married couple cannot exceed \$33,800. ConnPACE typically considers income from the previous year and discounts Medicare Part B premiums when determining eligibility; however, it will consider the current year's income if the previous year's income exceeds the requirements.
- Must pay \$45 annual application fee.
- Must not be eligible for Medicare.

Service Areas:

Statewide

Program Year:

Rolling enrollment based upon an individual's initial application.

Income requirements may change January 1st of each year based on the Social Security Administration's Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA).

Contact Information:

ConnPACE

Department of Social Services

25 Sigourney Street

Hartford, CT 06106

Telephone: 860-269-2029 (Hartford/Farmington area and out of state)

Toll Free: 800-423-5026 (in state only)

Website: www.connpace.com or www.ctdssmap.com

ConnPACE applications may also be obtained from:

Participating Pharmacies.

Area Agencies on Aging, refer to [Appendix A](#).

Senior Centers, refer to [Appendix D](#).

Municipal Agents, refer to [Appendix C](#).

Related Information:

[Benefits CheckUp \(for reference to Benefits CheckUpRx\), refer to page XIII – 3.](#)
[CHOICES, refer to page XIII – 5.](#)
[Medicare, refer to page IX – 9.](#)