



HEALTHWELL
FOUNDATION®

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News Release

October is National “Talk About Prescriptions” Month

The HealthWell Foundation® encourages all patients, especially seniors, to talk with their doctors about their care

Gaithersburg, MD (October 1, 2007) – October is National “Talk About Prescriptions” Month, sponsored by the National Council on Patient Information and Education (NCPPIE). The HealthWell Foundation® would like to encourage all patients, especially older adults and their caregivers, to learn more about the medicines they use and the resources that may be available to assist them with the cost of treatment.

“Medicines are important therapeutic tools for living well in later life, but there are also risks, especially among older adults who take more medicines than any other age group in the United States,” said Ray Bullman, Executive Vice President, NCPPIE.

In addition to safety, more and more patients face financial concerns and struggle with how to pay for the cost of the critical treatments. The HealthWell Foundation® works to remove these barriers by providing financial assistance to underinsured patients with serious and chronic health conditions, such as lung and colorectal cancers, rheumatoid arthritis, psoriasis, severe asthma, and many other diseases.

“It is so important for all patients to become active partners in their health care by routinely talking with their health care providers,” said Nancy Carteron, MD, FACR, who sits on the Board of Directors of the HealthWell Foundation®. “Cost should not be a factor in medical treatment decisions, but it often is. A growing number of people who have health care coverage are often struggling to make required co-payments in a co-payment system that is growing ever more complex. We encourage patients to talk with their doctors about resources, like the HealthWell Foundation, that may help them access the care that they need.”

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Since 2003, the HealthWell Foundation® has helped more than 35,000 patients with serious and chronic conditions meet their cost-sharing obligations for treatment. HealthWell is an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit association that provides financial assistance to cover the cost of prescription drug coinsurance, co-payments and deductibles, health insurance premiums, and other selected out-of-pocket healthcare costs. The Foundation considers individual financial, medical and insurance situations when determining assistance eligibility. For more information, please visit www.healthwellfoundation.org.