

Urban Aging L3C

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FREE

Issue 12 | Summer 2018

Info, Insight & Inspiration for Metro Detroit's Maturing Adults

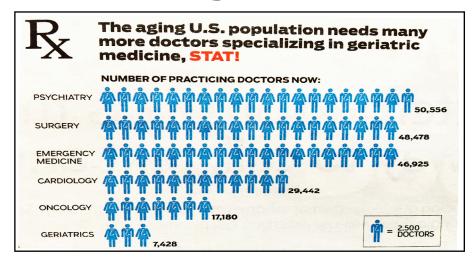
Summer Moves for Active Aging

Riverfront Recreation

Humana Supports Health at Oak Park Farmers Market

Basking in the Belle Isle Sun

Why So Few Geriatricians?



cal specialties in the United States that is seeing its ranks shrink, even as the need for doctors who work with seniors increases. The specialty ranks at the bottom of the list that internal medicine residents choose to pursue.

Geriatricians are certified in internal or family medicine and the specialty requires additional training in the diagnosis and care of health issues affecting older adults. This may also include addressing psychological and social problems seniors face.

Geriatrics is one of the few medi- According to AARP, part of the reason that some physicians avoid geriatrics is the reality that there simply isn't a cure for many of the health challenges that older people face. However, they add, a good geriatrician can bring someone back to functional status.

> Another deterrent is that geriatrics is among the lowest paying specialties in medicine - and Medicare reimbursement rates are seen as being too low.

"Medicare disadvantages

whatever is asked for medications researchers at the National Instiand procedures, but a pittance tute on Aging, "aging alone does for tough care-planning," said Dr. Joanne Lynn, a geriatrician and the director of the Center for Elder Care and Advanced Illness at Altarum Institute, a nonprof- While geriatricians are in short it health systems research organization based in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

While most don't need to see a geriatrician as they age, there is significant evidence that care provided by geriatrics teams reduces hospitalizations and hospital stays, costs less in the long run and results in fewer complications. Studies show seeing a practitioner in this specialty positively influences the number of falls, pressure ulcers and urinary Beaumont Geriatric Assesstract infections among these ment Center seniors.

Geriatricians are also less likely Henry Ford Health System to stereotype older adults and 313.543-6200 (Detroit) or minimize the problems as just Farms) an inevitable symptom of the de- 248.325-2277 (W. Bloomfield)

iatricians at every turn, paying cline of aging. According to the not cause illness nor does it automatically mean having to live with pain and discomfort."

> supply, all southeastern Michigan health care systems have geriatric clinics and/or geriatric assessment centers and the professional staff to assist.

> Metro-Detroit Geriatric Assessment Centers:

Detroit Medical Center Rosa Parks Geriatric Center 1.888.264-0102

248.551-8305

their unique issues or to dismiss 313.640-2277 (Grosse Pointe

OUR STAFF



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When Medicare **Benefits Extend to** the Dental Chair



Some Medicare Advantage • Medicare may cover denplans may include dental bene- tal fits beyond what original Medi- a care covers, including routine that requires an oral exam, dental services. However, in such as a kidney or heart general, standard Medicare transplant. does not cover routine dental care such as oral exams, cleanings, or crowns, there are some covered, so check with the spesituations when dental services cific plan if you're interested in may still be covered:

- Medicare may cover dental According work that is an essential part of Meds website, there cedure.
- of teeth to prepare the jaw for radiation treatment, for jaw-related neoplastic diseases.

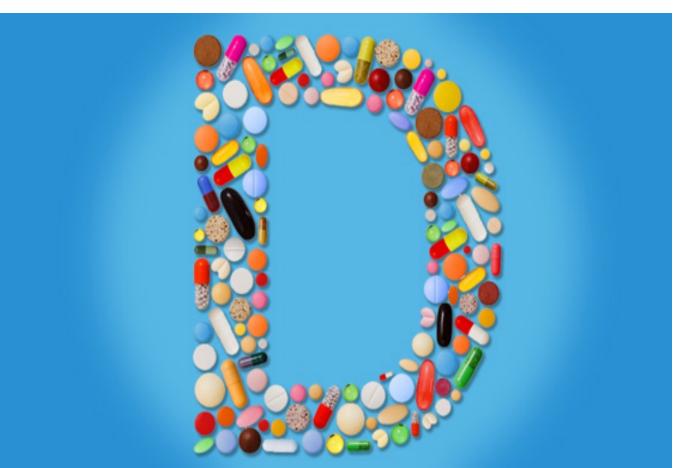
examinations prior complicated procedure

Medicare Advantage plans fillings, bridges, vary in terms of the benefits dental coverage.

to the Needy are another Medicare-covered pro- more than 100 free, lowcost or sliding scale dental clinics in Michigan. Visit: www. Medicare may cover extraction needymeds.org/dental-clinics and enter a zip code, or call 800.503-6897 for an up-to-date listing.



Matching Patients and Affordable Medicine



biopharmaceutical research cine coverage, PPA match- Get help with your prescripcompanies, the Partnership es patients with assistance tions: for Prescription Assistance programs they may be 1-800-259-8016 program is a free service eligible for. that helps uninsured and Visit www.pparx.org for this must be a resident of the underinsured patients get free, confidential service. access to assistance programs that offer prescrip- These are some prescription medicines either for tion assistance programs to free, or nearly free.

By completing the on- MiRx Resources line-only providing basic information rollment questions: about needed prescription 1-866-755-6479 medicines. income,

Sponsored by America's current prescription medi- MiRx Hotline

consider:

questionnaire, Application request and en- Extra Help assists seniors and (Press 2, then 1)

To be eligible, applicants state of Michigan, have no other prescription drug coverage, and have an income level at or below the state's median income level.

Medicare Extra Help

who are already enrolled in a Medicare Prescription Drug plan but who still

struggle to pay prescription drug costs. Funds can be used to pay monthly premiums, annual deductibles, and co-payments related to the Medicare Prescription Drug program.

Those who have Medicare and Supplemental Security Income, or Medicare and Medicaid, are automatically enrolled in Extra Help.

Social Security determines eliqibility for Extra Help when applicants submit the Extra Help with Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Costs Form SSA-1020. The 2018 income limit is \$18.210 for a single applicant and \$24,690 for a married couple living together.

The application is available online at: Medicare.gov, or by calling 1-800-772-1213, for a paper application or to make an appointment.

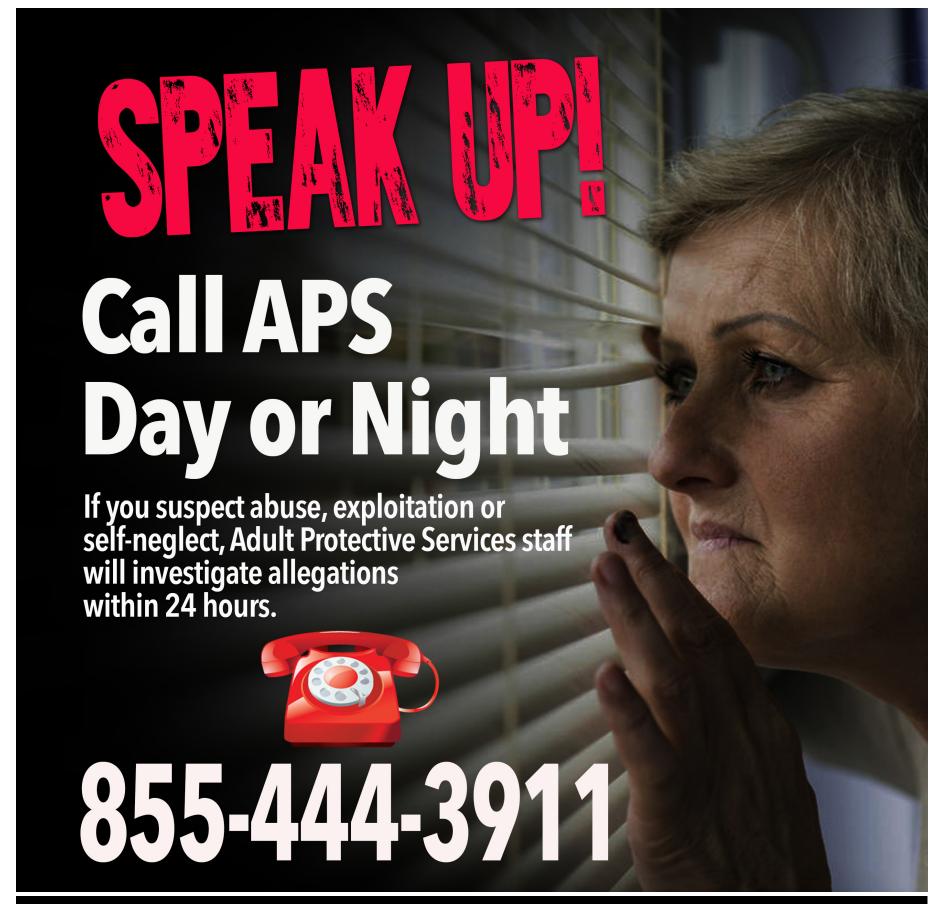
The hearing impaired can 1-800-325-0778 where representatives are available Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Medicare Savings Program

Completing the Extra Help Form SSA-1020 may also lead to help from the State of Michigan with other Medicare costs under the Medicare Savings Program.

Story continued on page 7





Summer Safe



During the dog days of summer, becoming overheated is more than just unpleasant for older people. It can be downright dangerous, and even deadly. That's why it is important to be aware of the risks of hyperthermia, or the overheating of the body, especially for older adults or those who care for elderly parents or who have elderly neighbors.

Hyperthermia includes heat fatigue, heat syncope (sudden dizziness or fainting), heat cramps, heat exhaustion and - the most serious - heat stroke.

Dr. Leslie Kernisan, a geriatrician and caregiver educator in San Francisco, said that heat stroke in older adults may appear with vague or non-specific symptoms such as fatigue, dizziness, or delirium. "This can make it hard to detect, or to tell apart from other complaints the senior may have voiced in the past," she said.

High humidity can exacerbate the problem as can conditions associated with growing older. Cognitive impairment may lead an older person to forget to turn on the air conditioning. Some seniors try to avoid drinking too much liquid if they struggle with urinary incontinence, Kernisan said.

Heat Stroke Signs and Symptoms

The signs and symptoms of heat stroke include the following, according to the National Institutes of Health:

- An increase in body temperature, generally to over 104 degrees
- Confusion or combativeness
- A rapid, strong pulse
- Dry, flushed skin
- · Feeling faint, staggering
- Coma

Call 911 if someone you know is showing these signs; they require immediate medical attention. While waiting for help, immerse the person in a tub or stream of cool water, cover with a wet sheet and give water to drink — not sugary or alcoholic beverages.

Why the Higher Risk?

The central nervous system regulates the body's response to hot and cold and that system begins to deteriorate with age, according to the Mayo Clinic. Those with other health factors also have a higher risk of heat-related conditions. These include:

- High blood pressure or other conditions that require diet changes, such as salt restrictions
- Heart, lung and kidney diseases
- Any illness that causes weakness or fever
- Use of multiple medications
- Reduced sweating caused by medications
- Poor circulation
- Overweight or underweight
- Alcohol use

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For information about Medicare Savings Programs, Medicare Prescription Drug plans or how to enroll in a plan, call 1-800-MEDICARE (TTY 1-877-486-2048) or visit www.medicare.gov.

NeedyMeds.org

The NeedyMeds Drug Discount Card is a free prescription savings card available to individuals

without insurance and to those who decide not to use their insurance for the purchase.

Call the Helpline at 800.503-6897, or visit www.needymeds. org/pap to learn more. This service also offers disease-specific information on prescription medication.

RxAssist Patient Assistance Program Center:

information.

The Together Rx Access Card is a free prescription savings card for those who have no prescription drug coverage. Find general information at: www.togetherrxacces.com www.MichiganDrugPrices.com

This Michigan Department of can help you compare prices for prescription drugs among www.michiganpharmacies. drugprices.com

tient Assistance Programs,, or PAPs, are run by nearly all ma- tion Assistance process.

RxAssist has information on jor pharmaceutical companies. free or low cost medications. Assistance is offered to low Visit: www.rxassist.org for more income individuals, providing them with reduced or free medications.

> These programs are generally open to those with insurance and those without insurance although the pharmaceutical companies sometimes maintain different programs for these two groups.

Community Health website Applicants are usually required to show proof of income such as a tax return, their doctor's prescription and documentation of insurance coverage. Call or visit the website of the Pharmaceutical company Pa- manufacturer of prescriptions to learn of their PatientPrescrip-



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c.a.28CF Southeast Michigan participant, all health care sensices are provided and arranged by your personal with care team. PACE participants many be fully liable for the costs of medical services from an out-of-network provider or without prior authorization <u>with the occaration of the regently services.</u>





Michigan Medicare: Quality Improvement Partnership



Michigan Medicare beneficiaries and their families have a place to turn when they are concerned about the quality of care given to patients. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Service have contracted the services of KEPRO Beneficiary and Family Centered Care - Quality Improvement Organization.

The BFCC-QIO protects beneficiaries by giving "information and assistance to providers, patients, and families regarding beneficiary complaints, discharge appeals, immediate advocacy, and patient navigation."

KEPRO manages all Michigan Medicare healthcare complaints and discharge appeals while offering information and assistance through its Immediate Advocacy and Patient Navigation programs.

The Immediate Advocacy program addresses complaints or concerns about medical care or services received. Concerns can include but are not limited to these types of needs for beneficiary support:

- Inadequate care or misdiagnosis by a Medicare hospital or doctor.
- Hospital staff unresponsive to questions.
- Concern that unnecessary surgery / diagnostic testing has been ordered or performed.
- Concern stemming from wrong medication prescribed or administered.
- Discharge from a health care facility before all issues resolved.
- Equipment has been ordered but not delivered to the home.

 Prescription refill needed before a physician appointment is available.

The free Patient Navigator program provides short-term service (up to 60 days) to address transitional needs. It is staffed by professionals with a background in social work or nursing who can provide resources and information to help keep you or your loved one healthy. Navigators help coordinate care, providing questions to ask physicians or assisting with understanding treatment plans, diagnosis, or medication management.

For more information, visit www.keproqio.com or call the Beneficiary Helpline at 1-855-408-8557.

Continued from page 6

Heat Alert: Use RX with Care

Particular medications that may interfere with the body's ability to respond to hot weather include vasoconstrictors (like decongestants), beta blockers for high blood pressure, diuretics, antidepressants and antipsychotics.

Where to Stay Cool

Urban Aging News

Go to a movie theater, library, mall, senior center or cityrun cooling center. Religious groups may also have cooling centers. Municipalities across southeastern Michigan also operate cooling centers during excessive heat. Call your city's parks and recreation department or municipal offices for other sites:

These are some metro Detroit cooling centers.

Ferndale - Kulick Community Center - 1201 Livernois

Oak Park - Community Center - 14300 Oak Park Blvd.

Troy - Community Center - 3179 Livernois Road

Portions reprinted from an article by Emily Gurnon on Next Avenue.org.





Detroit Leader Honored in Lansing



Elders Project, Cornelius Wil- Agency of the Michigan Deson, was recently honored partment of Health and Hufor his volunteerism with a man Services, along with 2018 Michigan Senior Citi- the Michigan Commission zen of the Year for Commu- on Services to the Aging. nity Leadership Award during presents the award each Older Michiganians Day at year to an adult over the the Michigan State Capitol in age of 60. The agencies Lansing. Wilson was also in-select from nominations strumental in the formation of received from across the SAGE Metro Detroit. The two state. The goal is to recogorganizations build aware- nize these seniors for outness and promote the policy standing volunteerism and and social change required for their commitment and for older LGBT adults to age contributions to their comwith dignity.

The Detroiter's volunteer ef- To learn more about LGBT out the metro area. His pro- or call 313.833-1300. grams and projects have also had a demonstrable impact in For info on SAGE-Metro improving the lives of African Detroit, contact Americans who are living with www.sagemetrodetroit.org HIV and AIDS.

The founder of the Detroit The Aging & Adult Services munity.

forts have helped older adults services offered by Hannan from all backgrounds through- Center, visit www.hannan.org

or call 734.681.0854





Embrace the possibilities

Presbyterian Villages of Michigan creates opportunities for seniors of all faiths. Connecting seniors to resources and their community for a vibrant life.

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Detroit

The Thome Rivertown Neighborhood 313.259.9000

The Village of Bethany Manor 313.894.0430

The Village of Brush Park Manor Paradise Valley 313.832.9922

Delta Manor 313.259.5140

The Village of Harmony Manor 313.934.4000

Hartford Village 313.270.9700

The Village of Oakman Manor 313.957.0210

The Village of St. Martha's 313.582.8088

The Village of Woodbridge Manor 313.494.9000

Gibraltar

The Village of Gibraltar Manor 734.676.4802

Holly

The Village of Holly Woodlands 248.634.0592

Pontiac

The Village of Oakland Woods 248.334.4379

Redford

The Village of Redford 313.541.6000

Southfield

The Park at Trowbridge 248.352.0208

Westland

The Village of Our Saviour's Manor 734.595.4663

The Village of Westland 734.728.5222

PVM Programs and Partners include:









Stride Season

month-long series of events significantly, information and Strides for Seniors, is for derly. Winning senior teams highlights the wide variety St. Patrick's Senior Center. of activities offered at senior centers - and their value to the community at large.

clubs, educational seminars niors."

Strides for Seniors is a and travel clubs, and most The culminating celebrating and bringing assistance departments to seniors and their support- have the opportunity to raise awareness to Detroit's 16 connect older adults and ers who can participate in funds for their own use. senior centers. Held during their families to vital resourc- a 3 mile walk, group hustle September, National Senior es," says SaTrice Coleman- and informational expo. The Registration is \$25 and in-Center Month, the campaign Betts, executive director at event will be held in Palmer cludes an event t-shirt. To

"Throughout September," Coleman-Betts adds, "lo- The activities will promote to get the t-shirt size of your cal senior centers will host wellness and independence; choice. "There's hustle, crafting and events to raise awareness increase awareness of sewellness classes at the cen- of senior issues, needs and nior needs and resources; To register, call: ters, but there are also book the services available to se- and raise much needed

Park, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Fri-register, complete and reday, September 21.

funds to continue providing www.StridesforSeniors.org.

event, critical services to the el-

turn the registration form. Pre-register by August 27

(313) 833-7080, or visit:

Repeat Winners! Victory Cup



Congratulations to the residents of the Presbyterian Village of Westland who took home the 2018 Village Victory Cup trophy for the 4th year in a row!

Through a variety of lively competitions, these seniors demonstrated keen mental and physical agility, and a healthy attitude as well. Residents of PVM's 31 Michigan properties compete annually as part of a wellness initiative promoting healthy aging, quality of life and a zest for living.

Help with Financing Winter Warmth

Winter can bring added expenses, in- return - submit the application form by cluding heating bills, that stretch the September 30. budget to the breaking point. The Michigan Department of Health and Human To get an application for the Home Services created the Home Heating Credit to assist qualifying homeowners and renters with this expense.

In some cases, renters who also receive food assistance may see their monthly allocation increased if they receive a HHC of more than \$20 within 12 months. This would typically affect some renters whose heat is included in their rent.

To complete the Home Heating Credit Claim and see if you qualify for the credit - even if you did not file a Michigan tax • If you are hearing or speech impaired,

Heating Credit:

- Visit the Michigan Department of Treasury website at www.michigan. gov/treasury and enter "Home Heating Credit" in the search box.
- Pick up a paper copy at a public library, post office, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services office or other locations where income tax forms are available.
- Call the Department of Treasury at 517-636-4486.

contact the Michigan Relay Center, 800-649-2777 or 7-1-1





WHEN ALZHEIMER'S TOUCHES YOUR LIFE, WE ARE HERE TO HELP

24-Hour Helpline • Care Consultations • Community Connect Social Engagement Opportunities Local Education Programs • Support Groups





SAVE THE DATE:

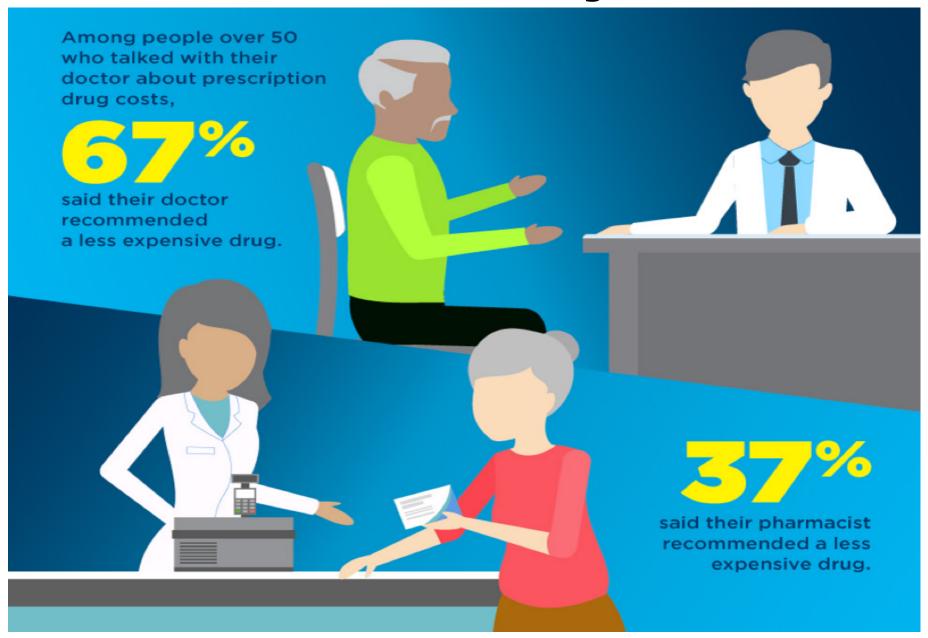
SATURDAY, AUGUST 25 WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S - METRO DETROIT

Held at the Detroit Zoo. Find out more at act.alz.org/detroit.

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What Your Doctor May Not Know



For many older adults, prescription paying for drugs poses a financial burden.

According to a University of Michigan National Poll on Healthy Aging, 49 percent of older adults reported that finding the funds

a burden but they still had not talked to their doctor about how to address or lower the cost.

Of the 51 percent who indicated they had indeed spoken to their physician, well over half said their doctor addressed the cona less expensive drug. Some chose to speak inand 37 percent of those patients said that led to a less expensive alternative being recommended.

One disconnect is that patients assume their doctors for medication presented cern and recommended are aware of how much

their medications cost. Researchers found that nearstead with their pharmacist ly half of those surveyed believed their doctor was aware of how much they spend on prescriptions. So it's not surprising that the majority of those surveyed had not ever spoken to their doctor about drug prices.

Story continued on page 15

Urban Aging News

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NEWS BRIEFS

U-M Detroit Pilot Study on Aging

The University of Michigan-School of Social Work researchers want to learn how Detroiters are aging. Focus group sessions will take place throughout the city. Participants will be treated to lunch and receive a \$30 gift card for spending 2-3 hours of their time speaking with researchers. If interested, call: 419.746.5877 or email mequresh@umich.edu and enter "Detroit Pilot Study" in the subject line.

Please provide the following information in your email:

- 1. Name
- 2. Phone number
- 3. City district number
- 4. Zip code
- 5. Indicate if you reside in a single family home or senior residence.

Return calls will be placed to those who qualify. Dates and other information will be provided at that time. Participant confidentiality is assured.



Free Lunch & Learns, will be provided by Universal Dementia Caregivers on select dates from July through November. They will be held at Triumph Church, 2760 E. Grand Blvd. Detroit, 48211, from 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Call 248.509-4357, or email info@universaldementia.org for dates and other details.

Give Cancer Patients a Lift

The American Cancer Society - Michigan Chapter is in urgent need of drivers to support the Road to Recovery® program, which provides cancer patients with free rides to treatment. This year, an estimated 56,590 Michiganians will be diagnosed with cancer, and for some, getting to treatments can be their biggest roadblock. Volunteers are screened and trained and can provide as many rides as they are able to schedule. For information, visit: cancer.org or call 1-800-227-2345.



Transportation Help is a Call or Click Away

Myride2 is a service that helps seniors and adults with disabilities in Macomb, Oakland and Wayne counties find transportation options with one phone call or mouse click. Mobility specialists and local transportation providers work to find the best options. Call toll-free at 855-myride2 (855-697-4332) or visit www.myride2.com

NEWS BRIEFS

Upcoming Health Fairs

Saturday, August 4 - Straight Gate International Church, at 10100 Grand River Ave, Detroit, Mich. 48204. Call 313.491-8430 for times and details.

Saturday, August 11 - Greater Detroit Agency for the Blind & Visually Impaired Resource Fair, from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Call 313.272-3900, or visit information@GDABVI.org for information.

Elder Abuse Awareness Lunch & Learn Workshops

Thursdays, August 9 & 16 - Second Ebenezer Chrch, 14601 Dequindre, Detroit, Mich. 48212. Learn new and updated information on detecting, screening and reporting elder abuse. Sessions led by Wayne County Sheriff chaplains, Neighborhood Legal Services Michigan and DAAA-1A elder abuse prevention staff. To register, contact elder abuse coordinators at 313.446-4444 x 5386.

SEEKING AD SALESPERSON

If you are an excellent, results-driven salesperson, Urban Aging News needs you. 20% commission on ad sales. If interested, contact: Urbanagingnews@yahoo.com

Senior Writers



The Chicken Soup for the Soul book series seeks senior writers to contribute stories to their senior-themed books. Those who have their submissions published retain the copyright.

Contributors can earn \$200 and receive 10 copies of the book their story appears in. Once published, writers can purchase additional books at a 50 percent discount.

Dr. Mary Edwards, a three-time Chicken Soup for the Soul contributor, offers tips to getting published in the series. She can be reached at: (313) 492-0149 for one free consultation. "You don't have to be a writer to tell a story," she says. The deadline for story submission is December 30.

Continued from page 13

It should be emphasized that doctors do not have access to detailed information about drug costs



nor can they tell just how

will cover. Pharmacists, on the other hand, can identify options to reduce costs.

The study recommends a comprehensive medication review, conducted by a pharmacist or other health professional, to make sure the right medications are being prescribed and offer recommendations for ways to reduce costs. This could be especially helpful if there are multiple prescribers.

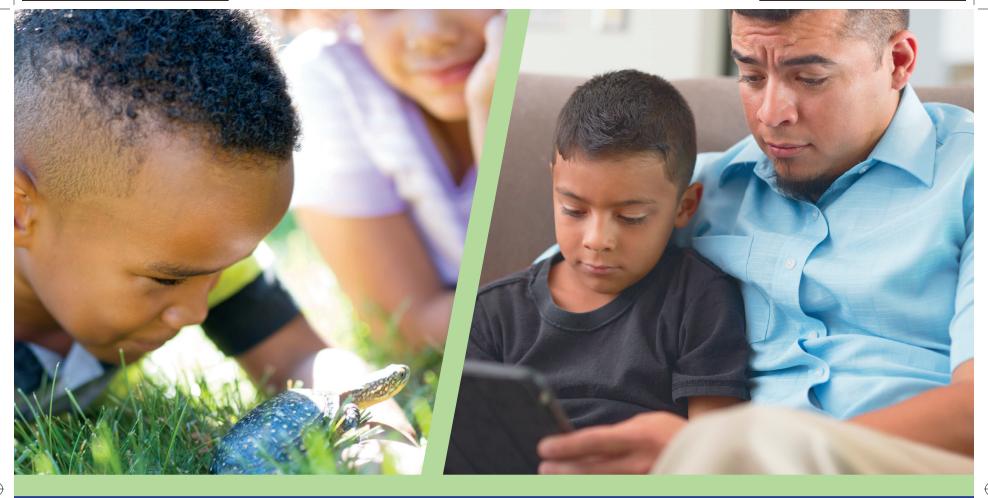
Patients are encouraged to shop around and if an insurance company permits, explore online and mail order options to purchase needed prescriptions.

See:

www.healthyagingpoll.org/ page/reports for the full study.

much a patient's insurance





ONE DAY... They'll need to go to college

A MET 529 prepaid college savings plan makes a memorable gift to your grandchildren. Buy college credits for the future at today's prices and we'll waive the \$25 enrollment fee. **Use coupon code UAN2018.**

MET4College.com

