

Dear Clinicians,

In the spirit of the holiday season, this is a blurb about how to address the “Scrooge/Grinch” of healthcare ----- Pharmacy chains! Perhaps we can help our patients save a little more money? A recent publication exposed the shocking variability in prices of GENERIC cardiovascular medications amongst US retail pharmacies (chain and independent). This finding is especially important to us in NYC because of our high number of uninsured patients depending on generic medications. The study looked at common generic medications like lisinopril and carvedilol. Lo and behold, prices for the same drug varied VERY widely within the same zip code. The price of lisinopril ranged from \$4 to >\$80! We cannot expect our patients to call several pharmacies to shop around and find the best price for each of their multiple medications.

There are a couple of apps to help identify the best price in your patient’s neighborhood. Try one of these free apps: (1) GoodRx or (2) WellRx. You can also go to the website, www.goodrx.com. You simply plug in the drug and dosage that you are looking for and add the zip code or address. This is a tool that can be used when financial barriers are identified while assessing our patients with the 5As tool that we have discussed previously. You may want to have your medical assistant help you because in order to get the price listed in the app, sometimes a coupon needs to be printed out.

If you have specific questions related to hypertension management in your patients, Dr. Williams can be reached by email at Stephen.Williams@nyumc.org or by phone at 646-320-8075 (cell).

Season’s Greetings to all!

THE BP VISIT PROJECT TEAM
www.CDNetwork.org/BP-Visit

