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“Projected Savings for Generic Oncology Drugs Purchased Via Mark Cuban Cost Plus Drug Company Versus Medicare”.

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Several researchers at various universities participated in a study of the cost of cancer medications purchased via the Mark Cuban Cost Plus Drug Company. They compared the cost of seven medications purchased at an average to above average price Medicare part D and part D patients paid to what they would have paid had they got a generic equivalent from Mr. Cuban & Co. Their research and computations produced figures around one half billion dollars in savings for the Feds and for cancer patients. You can examine the researcher's data and come to your own conclusions by reading the online article. Click the above hyperlink. You are welcome to share your observations with me at ProstateForumOC@gmail.com.

Tonight, we will look at the Mark Cuban Cost Plus Drug Company (“Cost Plus”) and other options for holding down drug costs.

WHAT IS COST PLUS?

Cost Plus is a mail order pharmaceutical house that manufacturers one hundred prescription drugs. Its business model saves money and passes savings onto consumers. Here's how:

First, this is a mail order business not “brick and mortar like your local Rite Aid so it has lower overhead costs but may not be as quick or convenient as the corner drug store

Second, it sells consumer direct thus cutting out distributors who Mark Cuban blames for adding costs apparently without adding value. This is an old approach to reducing costs and shared by others in retail pharmacy.

Third, it manufacturers many of its generic drugs in Dallas, Texas thus controlling the profit made on manufacturing. Not new, Rexall operated its own manufacturing plants such as Seamless Rubber Company.

Fourth, Cost Plus is not a “for profit” operation in a traditional sense of having to share with investors, stockholders, Etc. It is what's known as a “mutual benefit non-profit”. Not really a charity but similar to let's say a Homeowner's Association. The organization's sales generate enough profit to cover expenses, increases in costs, insurance, Etc. most likely with enough of a reserve to cover the unexpected. This is a new approach.

COST PLUS' FOUNDERS

Mark Cuban is a self - made billionaire, who has made (and sometimes lost) money with among other things on-line entertainment ventures, the Dallas Mavericks basketball team and he's invested more than 22 million dollars in many "Shark Tank" small businesses. He likes to support businesses with a social as well as economic benefit.

Alexander Oshmyansky, M.D. is the CEO and Founder of Cost Plus. Here's biography from the Cost Plus web site:

Alex founded the Mark Cuban Cost Plus Drug Company after being incensed by the skyrocketing costs of generic drugs for his patients.

Alex graduated from the University of Colorado at Boulder at the age of 18 with a BA in Biochemistry. He went on to earn an MD at the Duke University School of Medicine and a PhD (DPhil Oxon) at Oxford University in Mathematics as a Marshall Scholar. Alex completed a surgical internship at the Brigham and Women's Hospital / Harvard Medical School. He went on to a residency in diagnostic radiology and a fellowship in pediatric radiology at the Johns Hopkins Hospital. Alex then served as an adjunct faculty member at the Stanford University School of Medicine and continues to practice as an emergency radiologist.

While in grad school, Alex founded a startup dedicated to reducing the rates of nosocomial diseases in hospitals, Altitude Medical. That company has been continuously operating for over 14 years.

COST PLUS AND OTHER WAYS TO HOLD DOWN RX PRICES

Here's the **Cost Plus web site**. I'm not endorsing it but it may be worth your time and money to learn more about it. [Homepage of Mark Cuban Cost Plus Drugs](#)

Joining a Health Maintenance Organization such as **Kaiser Permanente** can do wonders reducing drug costs especially on generic drugs.

<https://healthy.kaiserpermanente.org/southern-california/shop-plans>

Need an affordable health plan? You can sign up for Kaiser Permanente and other providers at the **Covered California** website: <https://www.coveredca.com/>

Compare medication costs from different pharmacies using an on-line service such as **Good Rx**
<https://www.goodrx.com/>

Zero Cancer may help you pay for P Ca Meds: <https://zerocancer.org/get-support/financial-resources/>

The **Prostate Cancer Foundation** has a long list of resources for help with medication costs:
<https://www.pcf.org/patient-resources/patient-navigation/financial-resources/>

Are you a veteran? The **Veteran's Administration** may be able to help you:
<https://www.va.gov/health-care/pay-copay-bill/financial-hardship/>

Walmart, Costco and Amazon may sell prescription drugs for less.

Contact our friends at the **Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program** to learn how Medicare and Medicaid can help you. <https://www.coasc.org/programs/hicap/>

PARTING THOUGHTS

Here are some interesting articles about Cost Plus and Mark Cuban:

<https://www.healthgrades.com/pro/3-things-to-know-about-mark-cubans-drug-company>

<https://www.forbes.com/profile/mark-cuban/?sh=2acf3e876a04>

<https://dallasinnovates.com/mark-cuban-cost-plus-drug-co-tops-out-its-deep-ellum-facility/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mark_Cuban

New, innovative meds are often the most expensive and are not available as generics. So, the above resources may be valuable to you with or without Cost Plus.

What other ways do you know of to save money on meds? Email me at ProstateForumOC@gmail.com and I may share your information with others in our group.

Enjoy your weekend,

CKM