

Cenla Medication Access Program



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Cenla Medication Access Program Press Conference
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The Rapides Foundation Building
2nd Floor, Room C
1101 Fourth Street
Alexandria, LA 71301

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Cenla Medication Access Program (CMAP) Announces Wider Access to a Range of Free Prescription Medications

Alexandria, LA, Oct. 4--- Cenla Medication Access Program (CMAP), Central Louisiana's nonprofit medication assistance program funded by The Rapides Foundation, announced today that Cenla's low income uninsured will now have access to a wider range of free prescription medications, thanks to a donation of medicine from Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation.

Novartis is supporting CMAP's mission to expand the medications available to Cenla's uninsured by donating 15 of its leading prescription medicines. These include medications to treat high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease and epilepsy.

"We have a long history of providing access to our medications to those who can't afford them through several different patient assistance programs," said Alissa Jaffe Nagler, Associate Director, Patient Assistance Programs at Novartis. "We are pleased to be able to offer even more people access to the medicines they need through our partnership with CMAP."

Diovan® (valsartan) is one of the medications being donated. It treats high blood pressure, a condition affecting nearly 38 percent of Central Louisiana's residents. Another donated medication, Lescol® (fluvastatin), is used to treat high cholesterol which affects 30 percent of the patients in our region. If left untreated, high blood pressure can lead to heart disease which is the leading cause of death for adults within CMAP's service area.

“We are grateful to Novartis for donating their medications to the uninsured people in Central Louisiana,” said Wendy Roy, CMAP Program Director. “We hope that by providing our clients with needed medications they will have a better quality of life with fewer emergency room visits and hospitalizations.”

Funded by The Rapides Foundation, CMAP is a private nonprofit organization serving more than 2,000 Central Louisiana residents through a large network of physicians in a nine parish region. Three national pharmaceutical companies donate 49 prescription medications to CMAP's central fill pharmacy.

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