

## Uninsured Louisianans Able to Access More Needed Medicines

Two recent studies authored by Harvard Medical School and the American Cancer Society reported strong associations between the lack of adequate health coverage and poor health. Though these findings aren't surprising, they are especially troubling, given that the 2007 U.S. Census reported that there are 480,754 adults in Louisiana without health insurance. The good news is that this number dropped from 2005 but there is still work to be done.

In Central Louisiana, there is help for many people through the Cenla Medication Access Program (CMAP), a central fill pharmacy that plays a vital role in providing pharmacy services to the uninsured. Through CMAP, medicine is able to reach eligible patients through healthcare facilities or physicians that are providing them medical care.

This week, CMAP announced a significant new option to better help the uninsured in Central Louisiana. Qualifying individuals in Central Louisiana can now access AstraZeneca medicines for free, right where they are receiving their medical care. This recent milestone is an expansion of efforts by AstraZeneca to help people without insurance and those who serve these patients. In the future, CMAP intends to distribute the free medications to other eligible people across the state.

In 2007, AstraZeneca helped nearly 22,000 Louisianans get their AstraZeneca medicines for free or at a reduced cost and we look forward to expanding that number this year as CMAP joins our program. CMAP also looks forward to growing its number of patients served, which was more than 2,000 patients last year.

Limited income and inadequate health insurance do not have to lead to poor health. Through programs like CMAP and the AZ&Me™ Prescription Savings programs, Louisianans and their families can get the medicines they need.

Karissa Laur  
Director, Patient Assistance Programs  
AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals LP, US

Wendy Roy  
Program Director  
CMAP