

For Release
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Sutter Tracy Introduces New Service to Help Those Who Can't Afford Prescription Drugs

TRACY, CA – Sutter Tracy's Healthy Connections Resource Center is offering a new service to help reduce prescription drugs costs and improve access to those who need them. The center recently purchased the PAPrx Software, a fast, easy-to-use system that creates and fills out the forms necessary to apply to pharmaceutical companies' Patient Assistance Programs (PAP). More than 330 participating pharmaceutical companies offer over 2,380 brand name medications free or for a reduced fee to people meeting their program criteria.

“Thousands of people go without the vital medications they need because they don't have the means to pay for them,” says family practice physician Phillip Yu, M.D. family practice physician and vice chair of the Tracy Hospital Foundation. “These patient assistance programs offer a safety net for those who might otherwise fall through the cracks because they are uninsured, under insured or don't qualify for government assistance programs.”

Each pharmaceutical company has its own criteria for qualification to receive assistance. In general, applicants must be a U.S. resident; have no insurance coverage for outpatient prescription drugs; not be able to qualify for government programs, such as Medi-Cal or Medicare, which provide prescription medication; and be at an income level that causes a hardship when required to purchase medications at retail prices. Other restrictions may also apply.

For those who don't meet PAP criteria due to their higher income level or other reasons, Healthy Connections staff can direct them to additional medication discount programs and resources.

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“A number of pharmaceutical companies offer other prescription discount programs with less restrictive criteria. Pharmacies at Wal-Mart, Target and Costco also offer significant discounts on many generic medications without having to meet any special requirements,” adds Yu. “This new prescription assistance service is just one of the many ways that Sutter Tracy strives to make sure that everyone in our community has access to the health care services they need.”

For more information on PAPrx or help with prescription assistance programs, please contact Healthy Connections at 209.833.2420. For more information, please call Sutter Healthy Connections Resource Center at 209-833-2420, or visit the office at 35 E. 10th Street, Suite A, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Healthy Connections is funded by Sutter Tracy Community Hospital, the Tracy Hospital Foundation and a grant by San Joaquin County First Five program. The resource center offers a wide array of health education resources, classes and social services for children, families and seniors. Drop by or call 209.833.2420 for more information. All services are confidential and most are free of charge.

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