The Iowa Drug Donation Repository provides medication access to Iowans in need of assistance at little or no cost. Safety net patients with household incomes below 200% of the federal poverty level are eligible to receive donated medications and supplies that have been prescribed but not used.

The donations are received from long-term care dispensing pharmacies, medical facilities and individuals. Any organization or individual in the country can donate. The medications and supplies are inspected by SafeNetRx pharmacists and distributed to medical facilities or pharmacies to serve Iowans in need.

Established in 2007, the Iowa Drug Donation Repository is the nation’s largest state drug repository and now serves as a national model to meet the growing demand from uninsured and underinsured patients.

Patient Story: Drugs Not Covered by Insurance

A Medicare patient receives a low income subsidy to help with premiums. She is on three prescribed medications, two of which are not on her plan’s formulary, and one, an over-the-counter medication, not covered by insurance. All these medications were provided to the patient by the Iowa Drug Donation Repository.

Here are her out-of-pocket drug costs each month:

**Cholesterol Lowering**
- Welchol = $281.83

**Renal Agents**
- Myrbetriq = $295.08
- Oxytrol Patch = $80.85

Total Out-of-Pocket Costs for One Month: **$657.76**
DEMAND IS GROWING

The growing need for medication assistance in Iowa reflects the national trend. $419.4 billion in total prescription costs

Nearly 3 in 5 people report skipping doses or not filling prescriptions due to cost

Over 71,000 patients served
including uninsured, underinsured, Medicaid and Medicare patients

More than $17.7 million in cost-savings

9,148,000 Units in free medical supplies and medications provided

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Patient Story: Lovenox Coverage

“Words can’t express the gratitude that our patients and staff have for the Iowa Drug Donation Repository. The Repository is there to assist our patients with high cost medications they need for life-saving surgeries. Last year, we requested medications for 143 Safety Net Patients from the Repository. We request medications for many of our underinsured patients that have enrolled in the ACA insurance plan and yet have deductibles that cannot be met. The Repository has been there to assist our elderly through the dreaded donut hole. I have so many stories, but so little time to tell them all. I just know that Iowa is a much better place when it comes to filling in the gap for a health care system that is out of control when it comes to drug cost. Thank you SafeNetRx for always being there.”

- Sue Matheny, Iowa Heart Center

Major Disease States Covered by Donated Medications

Mental Health
Cancer/Chemotherapy
Alzheimer’s
Asthma
Hypertension
Diabetes
Multiple Sclerosis
Renal
Seizures
Parkinson’s
Transplant Rejection

Return on Investment

Every $1 used to administer the Iowa Drug Donation Repository generates over $7 in free medications and supplies.

Over 250 clinics and pharmacies partner with SafeNetRx to provide free and low-cost medications to safety-net patients in Iowa, including:

UnityPoint Health
Des Moines

McFarland Clinic

Mercy

freeClinics

LIVEUP

MEDICAP Pharmacy

IOWAHEARTCENTER

MOVING FORWARD

The demand for cancer medications distributed through the Iowa Drug Donation Repository far exceeds the supply of medications received. With support from the Iowa Cancer Consortium and the Iowa Department of Public Health, SafeNetRx has launched a new program to collaborate with cancer centers both locally and nationally to increase the supply of cancer medications into the Repository and thus, provide life-saving drugs to more safety net patients in Iowa. Specially designed, tamper-proof collection units are placed at cancer centers where patients and families can donate unexpired medications that have been prescribed but not used. Donated medications are then processed by SafeNetRx pharmacists and distributed to Iowans in need. This model will be used to generate donations from other specialty clinics and pharmacies.

Total based on number of patients served quarterly as reported by participating medical facilities and pharmacies. Fiscal years 2008-2016.
The Iowa Drug Donation Repository was an innovative solution developed in 2007 because dedicated Iowa pharmacists, businesses and legislative leaders were concerned about patients’ rising medication costs and the environment. Originally known as the Iowa Prescription Drug Corporation, the organization was founded in 2001 through a partnership with the Iowa Department of Public Health. In 2016, the organization was officially renamed SafeNetRx to better reflect our programs and the patients we serve. Learn more about innovative, cost-saving solutions at SafeNetRx.org.

Patient Story: **Drug Denied by Insurance Company**

A patient diagnosed with oral cancer was prescribed Afinitor as studies have demonstrated its effectiveness in treating this condition. The claim, prior authorization and appeal were all denied because it was prescribed for an off-label indication. The Iowa Drug Donation Repository was able to provide a thirty-day supply (valued at $13,530) to the patient’s care team. His condition improved and providers determined that he was benefiting from the treatment. A second appeal was filed with the patient’s insurance company stating his improvement. The insurer approved the prior authorization and agreed to cover therapy for the remainder of the year.

Patient Story: **Donut Hole**

“I am a 70 year old widow with a fixed income (social security) and on 9 prescribed medications for the past 5-6 years. A few of the medications are affordable but because not all of them are, I reach the donut hole by June. Without the assistance that I gratefully receive from the Iowa Drug Donation Repository, I know I could not afford my monthly prescriptions. If not for this program, I would have to decide what to do without - food, heat or life-saving medications. This program is an immense benefit for low income people who require daily medication.”

Patient Story: **Medicaid Lapse**

A Medicaid patient received a $1 raise and two $250 bonuses that were paid in consecutive pay periods. As a result of the extra income for the month of July, the patient was notified that she no longer met the income guidelines for Medicaid. Her coverage would end, effective September 1, 2016, and she would be ineligible to reapply for three months. Worried about how she would pay for her medications, SafeNetRx provided donated medications during this coverage lapse period. **Total cost savings = $1,709.33**

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