

Out of Pocket Costs for Diabetic Medications and Supplies:

How much does it cost to care for diabetes without insurance?

Although Contra Costa County provides high quality care and insurance to documented homeless individuals, there is a gap in coverage for those living Contra Costa County who are undocumented. Undocumented persons regularly seek care in Contra Costa County Healthcare for the Homeless facilities including at the three ambulatory clinics and mobile clinics. Having no insurance coverage is a challenge for undocumented individuals with chronic medical conditions, such as diabetes. These individuals have no coverage for the medications and supplies that they need. While the Healthcare for the Homeless clinics can provide an initial, short-term course of oral diabetic medications such as metformin they cannot serve as an ongoing supply of medications nor as a supply of insulin.

After speaking with undocumented individuals who had diabetes, I identified the need to help find local pharmacies that were close to the county clinics and to find out which pharmacies can provide diabetes medications and supplies at the cheapest cost.

After visiting several pharmacies throughout Contra Costa County, it became apparent that there was very little variation in the price of medications and diabetic care supplies between different locations of the same pharmacy (i.e., Walmart in Martinez vs. Walmart in Richmond) but there was significant differences in prices between different pharmacies (i.e., Walmart vs. Target vs. Walgreens)

This report focused on Walmart, Target and Walgreens' pharmacies. Walmart and Target were chosen because both companies have a "\$4 and \$10" generic medication list. Fortunately most of the oral medications that are used to treat diabetes are generic and include metformin, glipizide, glyburide and glimepiride. Walgreens does not have a \$4 and \$10 generic medication program, but they do have a Prescription Savings Club that offers generic medications for similar prices. The Walgreens Prescription Savings Club has an annual fee of \$20 for individuals or \$35 for family. All three pharmacies have their price lists posted online.

In terms of insulin dependent diabetics, efforts were made to get price information for a wide range of different types of insulins. In addition, price information was only obtained for 10ml multi dose vials as this was by far the most economical method to procure insulin.

Finally, pricing information was obtained for blood glucose testing supplies and insulin syringes with needles and places to properly dispose of used sharps.

The overall least expensive option was Walmart. Walmart has an exclusive brand of diabetes care products called ReliOn which has allowed them to offer extremely low priced diabetes care supplies and regular, NPH and 70/30 insulin.

For more details please see the following pages for detailed price lists. It is the hope that this price list can help practitioners provide a realistic cost estimate to undocumented patients who need medications to manage their diabetes in Contra Costa County.

Oral Diabetes Medications

Metformin 500mg or 850mg

	Walmart		Target		Walgreens	
Qty	60	180	60	180	90	270
Cost	\$4	\$10	\$4	\$10	\$5*	\$10*

*Walgreens Prescription Saving Club price

Metformin 1000mg

	Walmart		Target		Walgreens	
Qty	60	180	60	180	90	270
Cost	\$9	\$24	\$9	\$24	\$5*	\$10*

*Walgreens Prescription Saving Club price

Glyburide 2.5mg or 5mg

	Walmart		Target		Walgreens	
Qty	30	90	30	90	30	90
Cost	\$4	\$10	\$4	\$10	\$10*	\$20*

*Walgreens Prescription Saving Club price

Glipizide 5mg

	Walmart		Target		Walgreens	
Qty	30	90	30	90	30	90
Cost	\$4	\$10	\$4	\$10	\$5*	\$10*

*Walgreens Prescription Saving Club price

Glipizide 10mg

	Walmart		Target		Walgreens	
Qty	60	180	60	180	60	180
Cost	\$9	\$24	\$9	\$24	\$5*	\$10*

*Walgreens Prescription Saving Club price

Glimepiride 1mg or 2mg or 4mg

	Walmart		Target		Walgreens	
Qty	30	90	30	90	30	90
Cost	\$4	\$10	\$4	\$10	\$5*	\$10*

*Walgreens Prescription Saving Club price

Insulins:

All insulin was priced for 10ml vials of 100 units/ml

	Walmart	Target	Walgreens
Humalog	\$194	\$211	\$217/\$189*
Novolog	\$195	\$212	\$213/\$143*
Humulin R		\$104	\$91/\$86*
Novolin R	\$25	\$92	\$91/\$58*
Humulin N		\$111	\$91/\$86*
Novolin N	\$25	\$92	\$91/\$58*
Humulin 70/30		\$103	\$91/\$86*
Novolin 70/30	\$25	\$92	\$91/\$58*
Humalog 75/25	\$201	\$240	\$220
Novolog 70/30	\$202	\$211	\$214/\$148*
Lantus	\$216	\$242	\$224

*Walgreens Prescription Saving Club price

Insulin Syringes

	Walmart	Target	Walgreens
Insulin Syringes w/ needles	\$13 for 100	\$40 for 100	\$20 for 100
Sharps Containers (holds 70 syringes)	\$3	\$6	\$6
Alcohol Pad	\$1 for 100	\$3.50 for 200	\$3 for 100

Blood Glucose Monitoring Supplies

	Walmart	Target	Walgreens
Meter	ReliOn \$16	Up&Up \$15	\$15*
Test Strips	\$9 for 50	\$11 for 25 \$20 for 50 \$37 for 100	\$51 for 100
Lancing Device	\$5	\$6	\$11
Lancets	\$4 for 100	\$6 for 100	\$7 for 100

* Walgreens starter kit includes: meters, lancing device, 10 lancets

Sharps Disposal

The following site will dispose personal use sharps at no charge. All site require proof of residency in their respective coverage areas. Proof of residency includes a Driver's License, utility bill, cable bill etc...

EAST COUNTY

DELAT DIABLO HHW PROGRAM

2500 Pittsburg-Antioch Highway, Antioch, CA

925-756-1990 www.ddsd.org

East County residents may call to request a **free BD Home Sharps container by mail**. The container holds 70-100 insulin syringes or 300 pen needles. When the container is full, simply return to the facility and receive another.

- Antioch, Bay Point, Bethel Island, Brentwood, Byron, Discovery Bay, Knightsen, Oakley and Pittsburg. You will need to show proof of residency - such as a utility bill or driver's license.

CENTRAL COUNTY

CENTRAL CONTRA COSTA HHW PROGRAM

4797 Imhoff Place, Martinez

1-800-646-1431 <http://www.centalsan.org/>

- Alamo, Blackhawk, Clayton, Concord, Clyde, Danville, Lafayette, Martinez, Moraga, Orinda, Pacheco, Pleasant Hill, San Ramon, Walnut Creek and other Central County unincorporated areas

WEST COUNTY

WEST COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY

101 Pittsburg Ave., Richmond

1-888-412-9277 <http://www.recyclemore.org/>

- Crockett, El Cerrito, El Sobrante, Hercules, Kensington, North Richmond, Pinole, Port Costa, Richmond, Rodeo, San Pablo and Tormey

Pharmacy Locations

Walmart

Martinez
1021 Arnold Dr
Martinez, CA 94553

Pittsburg
2203 Loveridge Rd
Pittsburg, CA 94565

Antioch
4893 Lone Tree Way
Antioch, CA 94531

Richmond
1400 Hilltop Mall Rd
Richmond, CA 94806

Target

Pleasant Hill
560 Contra Costa Blvd
Pleasant Hill, CA, 94523-1216

Richmond
4500 Macdonald Ave
Richmond, CA, 94805-2307

Pinole
1400 Fitzgerald Dr
Pinole, CA, 94564-2250
(510) 222-0558

Walnut Creek
1871 N Main St
Walnut Creek, CA, 94596-4106

Pittsburg
4301 Century Blvd
Pittsburg, CA, 94565-7101

Walgreens

Antioch
3416 Deer Valley Rd,
Antioch, CA

Concord
1800 Concord Ave,
Concord, CA

Richmond
1150 Macdonald Ave,
Richmond, CA

San Pablo
13751 San Pablo Ave,
San Pablo, CA 94806