

Georgia's Medicine Donation Program Expands Healthcare Access for Low-Income Families

By Claire Howlett - Strategic Partnerships - SIRUM | Saving Medicine: Saving Lives

With prescription drug prices rising, physicians are forced to ask: when you prescribe a medication, will your patient be able to afford it?

A 2019 survey found that 1 in 3 patients did not take their medicine as directed due to cost, with some patients never filling their prescriptions and others cutting pills in half or skipping doses [1]. The devastating result? More people in the US die each year from not taking their medicine than from car accidents and opioid overdoses combined [2].

But Georgia is on the cutting edge of a new solution to the drug pricing epidemic. Thanks to a Georgia House Bill 897, spearheaded by Representative Sharon Cooper in 2016, Georgia has one of the most successful and fastest-growing medicine donation programs in the country.

Through the Georgia Donated Drug Repository Program, unexpired, surplus medicine can be redistributed to low-income patients via a network of recipient organizations like charitable pharmacies and clinics. The Department of Public Health [website](https://tinyurl.com/2j6aa47v) (https://tinyurl.com/2j6aa47v) lists organizations currently authorized to participate in the program.

One of these organizations, Good Pill Pharmacy, can dispense medications to anyone in Georgia with high medication costs. Good Pill charges an administrative fee of \$2 per month for most medications, delivers to patients' homes, and can accept prescriptions via e-scribe, fax or phone. Good Pill also partners directly with clinics, hospitals and providers to expand their own medication access programs.

To read more about the Donated Drug Repository Program, visit the Department of Public Health program [webpage](https://tinyurl.com/2j6aa47v) (https://tinyurl.com/2j6aa47v).

To learn more about Good Pill, visit [www.goodpill.org](https://tinyurl.com/3rdn7snv) (https://tinyurl.com/3rdn7snv) or contact hello@goodpill.org. Also, to learn more about about Georgia's program – click to hear a [recording](https://tinyurl.com/35r2t2jm) (https://tinyurl.com/35r2t2jm) of the webinar SIRUM led on medication access in Georgia this fall, which was hosted by Healthcare Georgia Foundation.

[1] [Kaiser Family Foundation](https://tinyurl.com/v7d2mbkz) (https://tinyurl.com/v7d2mbkz)

[2] [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](https://tinyurl.com/mker3jism) (https://tinyurl.com/mker3jism) | [National Highway Traffic Safety Administration](https://tinyurl.com/54uxu3be) (https://tinyurl.com/54uxu3be) | [Public Health Reports](https://tinyurl.com/m6sn774u) (https://tinyurl.com/m6sn774u)