

Expanded Senior Citizens Act

Availing Discounts on Medicines



1. Who are eligible to avail the 20% Senior Citizens Discount (SCD) on the purchase of medicines?

All senior citizens that fall under the definitions below are entitled to the 20% SCD for medicines:

- Any Filipino citizen who is a resident of the Philippines and who is sixty (60) years old is or above
- Senior citizens with “dual citizenship” status provided they prove their Filipino citizenship for at least six years residence in the Philippines

2. Where can the discounts be availed?

The discount can be availed at any licensed pharmacy in the country provided that the required documents are presented.

3. What documentary requirements must be presented by senior citizens?

The senior citizen, or his /her duly authorized representative, may submit as proof of his/her entitlement **ANY** of the following documents:

- a) Identification card (ID) issued by the city or municipal mayor or Office for Senior Citizens Affairs (OSCA) or the barangay captain of the senior citizen’s residence;
- b) The senior citizen’s Philippine passport
- c) Other government-issued identification documents indicating an elderly’s birthdate such as driver’s license, voter’s ID, SSS/GSIS ID, PRC card and postal ID.
- d) Senior citizens must also bring their Purchase Slip Booklets for the purpose of recording the medicines purchased for every transaction.

In case a senior citizen is unable to purchase medicines for valid reasons the following documents need to be presented:

- 1) Authorization letter stating that the representative is given authority to purchase the medicines on behalf of the senior citizen.
- 2) Valid prescription (except for over-the-counter (OTC) medicines) from the physician.

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4. What is the limit in the number of medicines that can be purchased with the discount?

One (1) month supply for prescription medicines and one (1) day supply but not to exceed a maximum of seven (7) days supply for OTC's

5. What medicines are covered by the 20% SCD?

The 20% SCD shall be applied exclusively to medicines for the use of Senior Citizens. Medicines in pediatric formulations but are medically prescribed for use of Senior Citizens, are also covered by the 20% discount.

6. Is there a schedule for purchasing medicines covered by the SCD?

No. Pharmacies are strictly prohibited from scheduling or limiting the time for the availment of the SCD. Senior citizens may avail of the SCD anytime during a pharmacy's operating hours.

7. Where can I file complaints against outlets that fail to provide the 20% SCD?

Complaints can be brought to the nearest Office of the Senior Citizens Affairs (OSCA) or at the DOH-National Center for Pharmaceutical Access and Management (NCPAM). Both are mandated to monitor the compliance to the granting of discounts and privileges.

8. Should a doctor's Professional Tax Receipt (PTR) number be written on the prescription?

The PTR number does not need to be written on the prescription. The prescription however should reflect the following information: date of prescription, name, age, sex and address of the senior citizen, medicine's generic name, dosage form, dosage strength and quantity, prescribing physician's name, signature, address, professional license number and narcotic license or s2 number (if applicable).

9. Are there any sanctions for those who violate the guidelines in the implementation of the SCD?

Yes. Non compliance with the guidelines will result in sanctions and penalties stated in Section 7 of R.A. 9994 as follows:

a) For the first violation, a fine of not less than Fifty thousand pesos (Php 50,000.00) but not exceeding One hundred thousand pesos (Php 100,000.00) and imprisonment of not less than two (2) years but not more than six (6) years.

b) For any subsequent violation, a fine of not less than One hundred thousand pesos (Php 100,000.00) but not exceeding Two hundred thousand pesos (Php 200,000.00) and imprisonment for not less than two (2) years.

c) Any person who abuses the privileges granted herein shall be punished with imprisonment of not less than six (6) months and a fine of not less than Fifty thousand pesos (Php 50,000) but not more than One hundred thousand pesos (Php 100,000).

10. Is a priority lane a must in all drug-stores?

Yes. There should be a priority lane for the elderly and a generic menu card displayed in all pharmacy retail outlets.

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