

# NEWS RELEASE



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**Contact:**

**Oregon Health Authority uses purchasing power to save  
Headline: Oregonians money on prescription medications**

The Oregon Health Authority takes another huge step today in saving money for Oregonians. Under a newly negotiated contract with health insurer ODS, the state's prescription drug program will even more dramatically lower the cost of prescription medications for hundreds of thousands of Oregonians.

There are currently more than 345,000 Oregonians enrolled in the Oregon Prescription Drug Program (OPDP), administered by ODS. Since it launched in 2005, Oregonians have saved more than \$30 million, an average of 45 percent per prescription. Under the terms of the new contract, Oregonians can expect, on average, an additional 10 percent reduction in prescription costs, generating an estimated additional \$4 million in annual savings.

"Reducing the high cost of prescription medications is one essential step in lowering and containing the cost of health care," said Tom Burns, Oregon Health Authority Pharmacy Programs director. "This is one of many steps we're taking at the Oregon Health Authority to save money for consumers, employers and the state."

"We're honored to continue this partnership. We respect and embrace the responsibility we have to deliver high-quality programs and affordable pharmaceutical services deserved by all Oregonians," says Chandra Wahrgren, vice president of pharmaceutical programs at ODS. "We're committed to extending our reach, forging new ground and putting forth the energy and effort necessary to assist the Oregon Health Authority in delivering value and raising awareness of the benefits offered through the Oregon Prescription Drug Program."

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In 2006, the Oregon Prescription Drug Program joined the Washington Prescription Drug Program to combine purchasing power, forming the Northwest Prescription Drug Consortium. Its group program is open to all public and private sector businesses that offer group health benefits to their employees. The individual side of the OPDP is a prescription discount program open to all Oregonians who are uninsured or underinsured. There is no membership fee to join. Enrolling is easy: Call 1-800-913-4146 or go to [www.opdp.org](http://www.opdp.org).

#### **The Oregon Health Authority**

The Oregon Health Authority is the organization at the forefront of lowering and containing costs, improving quality and increasing access to health care in order to improve the lifelong health in Oregon. The Oregon Health Authority is overseen by the nine-member citizen Oregon Health Policy Board working towards comprehensive health and health care reform in our state.

#### **About ODS**

Serving more than 1 million members, ODS is a multifaceted organization that provides a variety of affordable health plans and business services to customers throughout the Pacific Northwest. Founded in 1955, ODS is headquartered in Portland and has offices in Medford, Ore., Milwaukie, Ore., Bend, Ore., and La Grande, Ore., as well as in Seattle, Wash., and Anchorage, Alaska. For more information, visit [www.odscompanies.com](http://www.odscompanies.com).

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