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**Primary care, convenience care, urgent care or emergency care... the decision point.**

**Ok, if it's not an emergency...or even urgent**

When you or a loved one is ill or needs medical care, you want someone you know and trust. For routine, primary/preventive care, or non-urgent treatment, we recommend going to your doctor's office for medical care. Your doctor knows you and your health history, and has access to your medical records. You may also pay the least amount out of pocket when you receive care in your doctor's office.

**Care at your convenience**

Sometimes, you may not be able to get to your doctor's office, and your condition is not urgent or an emergency. In these situations, you may want to consider a Convenience Care Center that can be an alternative to seeing your doctor. Convenience Care Centers are conveniently located often in malls or some retail stores, such as CVS, Walgreens, Wal-Mart and Target, and offer services without the need to schedule an appointment. Services at a Convenience Care Center are provided at a lower out of pocket cost than an urgent care center visit at just the primary care physician office visit co-pays and/or coinsurance. Services at a Convenience Care Center are generally available to patients 18 months of age or older. Services that are available may vary per center.

Typical conditions that may be treated at a Convenience Care Center include:

- Common infections (e.g.: bronchitis, bladder infections, ear infections, pink eye, strep throat)
- Minor skin conditions (e.g.: athlete's foot, cold sores; minor sunburn, poison ivy)
- Flu shots
- Pregnancy tests

This is a sample list and not all-inclusive. For a full listing of services please visit each center's Web site. To find an in-network Convenience Care Center near you, see the list shown below:

**CVS Pharmacy  
MinuteClinic**  
6015 E Brown Rd  
Mesa, AZ 85205  
866-389-2727

**CVS Pharmacy  
MinuteClinic**  
765 S Lindsay Rd  
Gilbert, AZ 85296  
866-389-2727

**Walgreens  
Take Care Health Arizona**  
4766 E Queen Creek Rd  
Gilbert, AZ 85297  
866-825-3227

**CVS Pharmacy  
MinuteClinic**  
3170 S Higley Rd  
Gilbert, AZ 85295  
866-389-2727

**Walgreens  
Take Care Health Arizona**  
785 S Cooper Rd  
Gilbert, AZ 85234  
866-825-3227

**CVS Pharmacy  
MinuteClinic**  
4430 E Ray Rd  
Phoenix, AZ 85044  
866-389-2727

**Walgreens  
Take Care Health Arizona**  
1135 N Mesa Dr  
Mesa, AZ 85201  
866-825-3227

**Walgreens  
Take Care Health Arizona**  
2440 S Ironwood Dr  
Apache Junction, AZ 85220  
866-825-3227

**CVS Pharmacy  
MinuteClinic**  
1615 E Baseline Rd  
Phoenix, AZ 85042  
866-389-2727

**New Medicare Secondary Mandatory Reporting Requirements**

In order to comply with the new mandates, we will need to collect all missing dependent Social Security Numbers (SSN's) by January 1, 2010. There are currently 432 individuals missing their SSN's. We are not mandated to collect the existing dependent SSN data until 2010, and are beginning the process of collecting the missing SSN's so we'll be in compliance by then.

Please note that all new employees and their covered dependents (beginning 1/1/09) are required to provide their SSN's per the Medicare Secondary Mandatory Reporting requirements, so please make sure that Employee Benefits has this information. Failure to provide valid SSN's for employees or new dependents as of 1/1/09 will result in penalties up to \$1,000 per day per missing SSN for the School District.

*Employee Benefits Journal* is published for employees of Mesa Public Schools, an equal opportunity organization: The district does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, religion, sex, marital status, handicap/disability, or national origin. The *Journal* is produced by the Employee Benefits Department and the Printing & Publishing Department. Questions and comments are welcome. Please write to Director of Employee Benefits Andrea Billings, Mesa Public Schools, 63 East Main Street #101, Mesa, AZ 85201-7422.

# Half Tablet Program

As prescription medication costs continue to increase, you may be searching for ways to lower your costs at the pharmacy. You can save significant dollars by participating in our Half Tablet Program.

## You get the same medication and dosage for half the cost

The Half Tablet Program provides an opportunity for you to reduce your prescription medication copayments or coinsurance by using double strength tablets and splitting them in half.

Following is a list of medications included in the tablet splitting program.

CATEGORY	MEDICATIONS	DOSAGE AFTER SPLITTING
Antihypertensives ACE inhibitors	Aceon Mavik moexipril (generic version of Univasc) trandolapril (generic version of Mavik) Univasc	2mg, 4mg 1mg, 2mg 7.5mg 1mg, 2mg 7.5mg
Antihypertensives Angiotensin receptor blockers (ARBs)	Atacand Avapro Benicar Cozaar Diovan	4mg, 8mg, 16mg 75mg, 150mg 20mg 25mg, 50mg 40mg, 80mg, 160mg
Antidepressants	Lexapro Pexeva sertraline (generic version of Zoloft) Zoloft	5mg, 10mg 10mg, 20mg 25mg, 50mg 25mg, 50mg
Lipid-lowering medications	Crestor Lipitor Pravachol pravastatin sodium (generic version of Pravachol) simvastatin (generic version of Zocor) Zocor	5mg, 10mg, 20mg 10mg, 20mg, 40mg 10mg, 20mg, 40mg 10mg, 20mg 5mg, 10mg, 20mg, 40mg 5mg, 10mg, 20mg, 40mg

The medications included in the Half Tablet Program were selected because they meet the requirements to be deemed medically appropriate for splitting. Not all medications are appropriate for tablet splitting. Please consult your doctor before splitting any prescription tablets.

## How does the program work?

If you are prescribed one of these listed medications, discuss our Half Tablet Program with your doctor. The program is voluntary. You and your doctor decide together if the program is appropriate for you. If yes, your doctor will write a new prescription for double the strength and half the quantity with instructions to take one-half tablet.

Bring your prescription to your pharmacy. Your pharmacist will fill your prescription according to your doctor's tablet splitting specifications. You will only be responsible for up to half of your usual copayment or coinsurance amount.

## Splitting tablets is easy

Using a tablet splitter makes splitting your medication tablet easy. UnitedHealthcare will provide you with one free tablet splitter. You will be sent a notification letter containing a Participant Code and instructions on how to order your free tablet splitter at [www.halftablet.com](http://www.halftablet.com). If you prefer, you may also purchase a tablet splitter at your local pharmacy at your expense. It is not covered by your pharmacy benefit. Never attempt to split tablets with anything other than a device designed specifically for that purpose.

## Savings example

The following example shows how participating in the Half Tablet Program can reduce your copayment by half.

Prescribed: 20mg of Lipitor per day; 30-day supply



PLAN PARTICIPANT		HALF TABLET PARTICIPANT	
30 - 20mg pills (\$3 per pill)	\$90	15 - 40 mg pills (\$3 per pill)	\$45
Tier 2 Copay	\$25	50% of Tier 2 Copay	\$12.50
Plan pays	\$65	Plan pays	\$32.50

# ***We're here for you!***

Over the past year, the Employee Benefits Plan has undergone many changes. We unbundled the medical and dental plans so that employees could elect medical without dental and vice versa. We also made major changes to conform to the updated IRS requirements in the 403(b) investment industry. Finally, for the first time we now offer dependent vision benefits for purchase.

For communications with our customers, we added a benefits line that rings to 4 telephones at once at (480) 472-7222, as well as an added benefits e-mail address for faster turn around of your benefits questions; [benefits@mpsaz.org](mailto:benefits@mpsaz.org).

As the Director of Employee Benefits for Mesa Public Schools, I want to thank you for giving us the opportunity to serve you. Please help us serve you better by taking a couple of minutes to tell us about the service that you have received so far. We appreciate your dedication to our district and want to make sure we meet your expectations.

Your department or school \_\_\_\_\_

***In your most recent customer service experience, how did you contact Employee Benefits?***

- In Person
- By Telephone
- By e-mail
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

***Sufficient information was available on the internet to solve my problem.***

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

***About how long did you have to wait before speaking to a representative?***

- I was taken care of immediately
- Within 3 hours
- 3-5 hours
- Within 24 hours
- More than 24 hours

***Did our representative... (Select all that apply)***

- Quickly identify the problem
- Appear knowledgeable and competent
- Help you understand the cause and the solution to the problem
- Handle issues with courtesy and professionalism

***About how long did it take to get this problem resolved?***

- Immediate Resolution
- Less than a day
- Between 2 and 3 days
- Between 3 and 5 days
- More than a week
- The problem is still not resolved

***How many times did you have to contact the Employee Benefits department before the problem was corrected?***

- Once
- Twice
- Three Times
- More than Three times

***Overall, how satisfied are you with the customer service experience?***

- Very Satisfied
- Somewhat Satisfied
- Neutral
- Somewhat Dissatisfied
- Very Dissatisfied

***If you were less than totally satisfied, what could have been done to serve you better?*** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your feedback. We sincerely appreciate your honest opinion and will take your input into consideration while providing services in the future. If you have any comments or concerns about this survey please Contact: - Andrea Billings, Director, Employee Benefits and Risk Management at [ambillin@mpsaz.org](mailto:ambillin@mpsaz.org).

Optional (so we can get further information from you about the above if needed):

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Office Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

*Thank you for your feedback!*

***PLEASE DETACH AND RETURN TO  
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS DEPARTMENT***