

MEDICATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

- DRUG BENEFIT PROGRAM FOR PATIENTS WHO QUALIFY -

Medication assistance programs are designed to help those who can't afford their medicines. The Medication Assistance Program (MAP) was initiated in 1998 by HCSD for the State Public Hospitals. The program provides drugs for patients who are below 200% of the federal poverty level or who otherwise qualify for the drug discount program. The MAP program received a one-time start-up budget of \$1.1 million dollars from the legislature. The MAP process varies among each LSU hospital, however, the end results are the same: to provide free drugs to our patients who are unable to afford the drugs they need in order to maintain good health. It has been proven that our MAP program decreases ER visits and hospitalizations and saves the State money. It also helps patients make their limited funds go further. Limited income forces patients to choose among utilities, food, medications and other necessities. These choices often result in higher medical expenses and frequent hospital visits. This past year, we served over 30,000 patients with over 573,000 prescriptions with a value of \$28.8 million dollars. At the end of FY2005, the cumulative value of the drugs provided by HCSD to patients totaled \$155.9 million dollars.

