

NC MedAssist

Over-The-Counter Medicine Donation Drive Toolkit



Thank you for your interest in helping our neighbors
in need stock their medicine cabinets!



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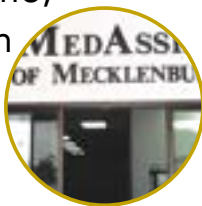
Hope



About Us

1997

MedAssist of Mecklenburg begins serving low-income, uninsured, senior adults in Mecklenburg County.



2005

MedAssist of Mecklenburg expands program guidelines to include ANY uninsured adult in the county.



2009

MedAssist expands the Free Pharmacy Program statewide and changes name to NC MedAssist.

2012

Over-The-Counter program begins with first event in Charlotte.



2014

The first Mobile Free Pharmacy event is held in High Point, NC.



2018

The OTC Free Store opens in Charlotte, staffed by team members in the Transitional Jobs Program.

2022

NC MedAssist celebrates 25 years of dispensing hope across NC!



MISSION:

To dispense opportunities through improved health.

VISION:

To ensure that no eligible person in North Carolina has to choose between purchasing food or their needed medication; improving the patient's health and lowering uncompensated health care costs for all stakeholders.

FISCAL YEAR '23 IMPACT:

16,489

NC residents served through free pharmacy program

183,466

prescriptions dispensed.

73,501

served through Free Pharmacy and OTC Programs

\$70.1M

value of dispensed medication




4428 Taggart Creek Rd
Suite #101,
Charlotte, NC 28208




medassist.org

Our Impact

Serving Our Neighbors In Need

 Dispensed over **\$70 million** in medication in FY23, as compared to six years ago, **\$48.5 million** in FY17.

 Helped more than **16,000 patients** receive more than **180,000 medications**.


 Nearly **73,000** over the counter participants served (mobile and store pharmacies).


 Healthcare **cost avoidance** for the top four diseases is over **\$60 million**.

 Total economic impact to NC was over **\$131 million** in FY23.


 **81%** of every dollar goes to patient services. **19%** is used for administration and development.

 For every dollar donated in FY23, **\$16** in lifesaving medication was dispensed to North Carolinians who have low income and low resources.

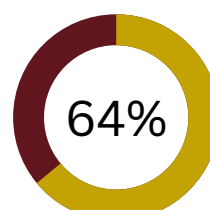
 Even with Medicaid expansion it is estimated that nearly **700,000 people** in NC will still lack health insurance.

 NC MedAssist works with **126 clinic partners** across the state of NC. Partners include health departments, hospitals, clinics, re-entry programs, etc.

 **34%** of our free pharmacy patients receive behavioral health medication

 On average, **20%** of Mobile Free Pharmacy participants report having access to free OTC's has kept them out of the ER in the last year.

 **58%** of our Mobile Free Pharmacy events take place in rural counties in NC

 **64%** of our free pharmacy patients are being treated for chronic diseases



**A Letter From
The CEO**

Brenda Vass



Hope Provider,

Thank you for your support. NC MedAssist is dedicated to providing essential healthcare resources to our neighbors in need, and it's through the support of committed individuals like you that we are able to advance that mission.

The Over the Counter Medicine Program provides families who are low-income with free over-the-counter medicine. Medicine such as aspirin, children's cough syrup, allergy medicine and vitamins are just a few items given to those who need assistance. Through the Mobile Free Pharmacy Program, we are able to cover the entire state of North Carolina – from the mountains to the coast!

With so many facing challenges in accessing basic healthcare supplies, the need for over-the counter (OTC) medications is a pressing reality. Hosting an OTC donation drive empowers the community to directly address this need in a practical and immediate manner. Supplying these essential items not only alleviates stress for individuals and families while eliminating barriers to accessing vital healthcare resources.

The OTC Donation Drive Toolkit has been created as a guide to aid in the process of organizing a meaningful event. It is a roadmap of helpful tools to ensure that your drive is effective and impactful.

Please reach out for any assistance in personalizing the drive to best suit your organization.

Thank you for your dedication to improving the health and well-being of North Carolina and supporting NC MedAssist.

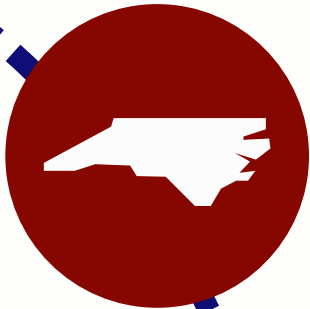
With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brenda Vass". The signature is stylized and cursive, written over a circular stamp or seal that is partially obscured.

Brenda Vass
CEO
NC MedAssist

What Is An OTC Drive?

The OTC donation drive is a way to support NC MedAssist to collect essential non-prescriptions for North Carolina residents in need. OTC drives are crucial because they provide access to basic healthcare essentials for those who may not have the means to afford them. This initiative helps to bridge the gap in access and ensure that everyone has the necessary supplies for their well-being.



Why An OTC Drive?

On average every dollar spent by consumers on OTC medicines saves \$6-7 for the U.S. healthcare system as a whole.

NC MedAssist generates more than \$5 million in healthcare costs avoidance through its distribution of Over the Counter medicine in FY23.

NC MedAssist is reaching people through our OTC programs and we would love for you to join us in our mission to offer hope to **individuals of all races, genders, ethnicities, and religious beliefs by giving them access to health opportunities.**

What You Can Do To Help!

Start and lead a drive for your church, organization, community center, etc. Please refer to the OTC Drive Infographic for steps on how to get one started contact Andria Tindall at: atindall@medassist.org or 704.350.3578



What Items Are Needed?

Please refer to the full donation wishlist for more details.

- Pain Relief
- Cold/Flu
- Allergy
- Children's Medicine
- Sleep Aid
- Digestive
- Skincare
- Urinary Pain Relief
- First Aid
- Multi-Vitamin
- Women's (Yeast infection treatment, feminine hygiene products)
- Adult diapers

NC
MedAssist
OTC Donation Drive



OTC Donation Drive



Step 1: Choose How You'll Host Your Drive

Virtual

This means you'll work with NC MedAssist to create an Amazon wishlist of our most needed OTC medication and have them delivered to our warehouse.

In-Person

If you are organizing an in-person drive, you'll want to decide the best place for the collection boxes. We recommend an office space or scheduling a volunteer session at our warehouse and bringing them with you!

Step 2: Schedule Your Drive

Determine how long you want your donation drive to run. OTC Drives can last a week or a month - even a day!

Step 3: Spread The Word

You'll receive a toolkit with marketing materials and more to help you spread the word about your drive and start getting donations!

How Your Donations Are Distributed

Over-the-Counter medication access is critical to decrease unnecessary hospital visits and alleviate everyday aches and pains that could result in low quality of life and potentially missing work.

The OTC Free Store

The OTC Free Store houses durable medical supplies and OTC medicine, such as pain relief, cold and cough, allergy, digestive, vitamins, children's medicine, and more.

The store is open to all NC residents with no financial requirements. Guests can shop once a month in the store during our regular hours or pre-order on our website and select a pick-up time that is convenient for them.



The Mobile Free Pharmacy Program



NC MedAssist travels statewide to bring over-the-counter medicine to our neighbors in need. We visit a different community each week and work with a volunteer committee to ensure other safety-net organizations are available to provide support to those who attend. Our MFP program has visited over 75 of the 100 counties across NC.

OTC Donation Drive FAQ'S

Why an OTC drive?

The OTC donation drive is a way to support NC MedAssist in collecting essential non-prescriptions for North Carolina residents in need. OTC drives are crucial because they provide access to basic healthcare essentials for those who may not have the means to afford them. This initiative helps to bridge the gap in access and ensure that everyone has the necessary supplies for their well-being.

Who can organize an OTC drive?

Anyone can organize an OTC drive! Individuals, community groups, schools, businesses, and organizations are all welcome to participate. It is a great way for communities to come together and support the health and well-being of fellow North Carolina residents.

What are the types of OTC drives?

OTC drives can take various forms. They can be organized as standalone events, integrated into existing community gatherings, or through corporate events. They can be one-time events or ongoing campaigns depending on the organizer's preference.

What products should be collected?

The products that are typically in high demand for OTC drives include common over-the-counter medications like pain relievers, cold and flu remedies, and allergy medications, as well as basic medical supplies like bandages and first aid kits.

Why should I participate?

Participating in the drive allows you to contribute and support the mission of NC MedAssist – to provide opportunities through improved health. It is a tangible way to make a positive impact on your community or a larger cause.

How can I promote my donation drive?

Promoting your OTC drive can be done through various channels, including social media, flyers, emails, local community boards, and word of mouth. Utilizing different platforms can help reach more individuals and increase support.

What to say to those who want to help NC MedAssist beyond the drive?

Encourage them to explore the many ways to support NC MedAssist. They can consider volunteering their time, partnering financially, or spreading awareness about NC MedAssist's mission in their community. As well as they may reach out to Gail Felder at gfelder@medassist to inquire about additional ways they can connect and elevate the mission or organizing an OTC drive.



Over-The-Counter Medicine Donation Drive

We Need Your Help!

When:

Where to drop your donations:

Examples of what to collect:

Pain Relief (Acetaminophen, Ibuprofen, Aspirin, Muscle Rub)

Cold/Flu (Cough Drops, DayQuil, NyQuil, Tussin, Mucinex)

Allergy (Claritin, Zyrtec, Alavert, Benadryl, Nasal Spray)

Diphenhydramine (Benadryl, ZZZQuil)

Children's (Pain Relief, Allergy, Cold/Flu)

Sleep Aid (ZZZQuil, Melatonin)

Digestive (Nexium, Pepcid, Tums, Pepto Bismol, Immodium)

Skin (Anti-fungal, Anti-itch, Chapstick)

Urinary Pain Relief (Cystex, AZO)

First Aid (Band-aids, alcohol, peroxide, gauze, medical tape)

Multi-Vitamin (Men's, Women's, Children's)

Women's (Yeast infection treatment, feminine hygiene products)


Adult diapers

Donated items must meet the following criteria:

In the original, sealed packaging from the manufacturer (bottles with a plastic seal over the top, pills in blister packs, etc.)

Not expired (less than 3 months before expiration date)

Must not require refrigeration


NC
MedAssist
Over-the-Counter Medicine
Donation *Wish List*

Pain Relief (Acetaminophen, Ibuprofen, Aspirin, Muscle Rub)
Cold/Flu (Cough Drops, DayQuil, NyQuil, Tussin, Mucinex)
Allergy (Claritin, Zyrtec, Alavert, Benadryl, Nasal Spray)
Diphenhydramine (Benadryl, ZZZQuil)
Children's (Pain Relief, Allergy, Cold/Flu)
Sleep Aid (ZZZQuil, Melatonin)
Digestive (Nexium, Pepcid, Tums, Pepto Bismol, Immodium)
Skin (Anti-fungal, Anti-itch, Chapstick)
Urinary Pain Relief (Cystex, AZO)
First Aid (Band-aids, alcohol, peroxide, gauze, medical tape)
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We gladly accept name brand or generic liquids, tablets, capsules, and chewable forms. Items can be purchased and dropped in-person, or shop our Amazon Wish List (scan the QR Code) and have the items delivered directly to our warehouse at 4428 Taggart Creek Road Suite 101, Charlotte, NC 28208.

Andria Tindall
atindall@medassist.org
704-350-3587

OTC Donation Drive Sample Email

Below is a sample email for you or your organization to send to participants that explains the OTC drive's purpose, needs, and length. Copy and paste this email and customize the text in red to suit your needs.

Dear employees,

We are hosting an Over-The-Counter (OTC) medicine drive to benefit NC MedAssist and we need your help!

The OTC donation drive is a way to support NC MedAssist in collecting essential non-prescription medication for North Carolina residents in need. OTC drives are crucial because they provide access to basic healthcare essentials for those who may not have the means to afford them. This initiative helps to bridge the gap in access and ensure that everyone has the necessary supplies for their well-being. Here are some FAQ's...

What should I collect?

The products that are typically in high demand for OTC drives include common over-the-counter medications like pain relievers, cold and flu remedies, and allergy medications, as well as basic medical supplies like bandages and first aid kits.

When does it start and end?

(COMPANY TO FILL IN)

Where do I send/drop my donations?

(COMPANY TO FILL IN)

Thank you in advance for helping **(COMPANY NAME)** make an impact on the health of our neighbors in need across North Carolina!