

# NC MedAssist

## Over-the-Counter Medicine Donation Drive Toolkit



## A Letter from Leadership



Dear Supporter,

Thank you for your interest in hosting an Over-the-Counter (OTC) Donation Drive. Every day, thousands of North Carolinians rely on NC MedAssist to meet their basic home pharmacy needs. With the support of caring individuals like you, we're able to continue advancing our mission of health equity across the state.

Our OTC programs — the Mobile Free Pharmacy and OTC Free Store — play a vital role in serving low-income residents. By providing free access to essential OTC medications such as cold and allergy relief, pain relievers, vitamins, and more, we help ease the financial burden on individuals and families who need it most.

This OTC Donation Drive Toolkit was designed to guide you through the process of organizing a successful and meaningful drive. Inside, you'll find helpful resources to make your efforts as effective and impactful as possible. If you'd like to tailor the drive to better fit your organization, please don't hesitate to reach out — we're here to help.

Thank you for your commitment to improving the health and well-being of North Carolinians and for standing with NC MedAssist.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brenda Vass". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Brenda Vass  
CEO



## 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 \$52 million in healthcare costs avoidance through its distribution of OTC medicine in FY24.

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 in need 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](mailto: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 Health (Yeast infection treatment, feminine hygiene products)
- Adult diapers

# Hosting an 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 your 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.

## 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.



## Mobile Free Pharmacy



NC MedAssist travels statewide to bring OTC 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.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Why host 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.

## 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, donating, or spreading awareness about NC MedAssist's mission in their community. As well as they may reach out to Andria Tindall at [atindall@medassist.org](mailto:atindall@medassist.org) to inquire about additional ways they can connect and elevate the mission or organizing an OTC drive.

# Over-The-Counter Medicine Donation Drive

## Items to collect:

### ITEMS IN CRITICAL NEED

- Adult Allergy (Claritin, Zyrtec, Allegra, or generic)
- Adult Cough and Cold
- Adult Pain Relief (Tylenol, Motrin, Excedrin, Aleve, Ibuprofen, Acetaminophen)
- Antibiotic Ointment (Neosporin)
- Antifungal Ointment
- Bug Repellent
- Band Aids
- Children's Cough and Cold
- Children's Pain and Fever
- Digestive / Upset Stomach
- Laxatives / Stool Softeners
- Sunscreen / Skincare Products
- Tums / Heartburn Relief
- Vaseline
- Vapor Rub
- Pain Relief (Acetaminophen, Ibuprofen, Aspirin, Muscle Rub)
- Cold/Flu (Cough Drops, DayQuil, NyQuil, Tussin, Mucinex)
- Allergy (Claritin, Zyrtec, Allegra, Nasal Spray)
- Diphenhydramine (Benadryl, ZZZQuil)
- Children's (Pain Relief, Allergy, Cold/Flu)
- Sleep Aid (ZZZQuil, Melatonin)
- Digestive (Nexium, Pepcid, Tums, Pepto Bismol, Imodium)
- Skin (Anti-fungal, Anti-itch, Chapstick, Sunscreen, Aloe)
- Urinary Pain Relief (Cystex, AZO)
- First Aid (Band-aids, alcohol, peroxide, gauze, medical tape, gloves, masks)
- Multi-Vitamin (Men's, Women's, Children's)
- Women's Health (Yeast infection treatment, pregnancy tests, feminine hygiene products)
- Adult Diapers / Diaper Rash Cream
- Hygiene/Toiletries (deodorant, toothpaste/brushes, soap, shampoo, face wash)

## Donation Guidelines

To ensure the safety and well-being of those we serve, we kindly ask that all items meet the following criteria:

### Sealed and Unopened:

Items must be in their original, sealed packaging.

### Expiration:

Products must have at least 3 months remaining before expiration.

### Storage:

Items must not require refrigeration.

## Delivery Options

### In-Person Drop-Off

If you prefer to deliver items in person, please drop off at our headquarters:

NC MedAssist

Attn: Andria Tindall

4428 Taggart Creek Rd, Suite 101

Charlotte, NC 28208

Monday – Friday, 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

(Excluding Holidays)

### Ship to Us (USPS Only)

You can also ship donations directly to our office at the address above. Please adhere to the office hours above when coordinating delivery. No nights or weekend deliveries please.

\*\*\* Brand names are included for reference only; generic equivalents are equally acceptable. \*\*\*



# 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.

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Dear Employees,

We're proud to partner with NC MedAssist by hosting an Over-the-Counter (OTC) medicine donation drive—and we invite you to take part!

## **What's this all about?**

NC MedAssist is a nonprofit organization that provides free prescription medications to uninsured and low-income individuals and OTC items to those in need across North Carolina. By donating new, unopened health items, we can help close the healthcare access gap for thousands of our neighbors in need.

## **What can I donate?**

We're collecting commonly used OTC products such as:

- Pain relievers (e.g., acetaminophen, ibuprofen)
- Cold and flu medications
- Allergy relief
- First aid kits and supplies (bandages, antiseptics, etc.)
- Children's medications
- Vitamins

Please see attached for a full list of items in need.

## **When is the drive?**

[INSERT START DATE] – [INSERT END DATE]

## **Where do I drop off donations?**

[INSERT DROP-OFF LOCATION OR INSTRUCTIONS]

Together, we can make a meaningful impact on the health and well-being of communities across our state. Thank you for supporting this important cause!

Sincerely,

[Company Name / Team Name]