

Publix prescription plan a plus for consumers

BY MICHELLE L. START
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Treating urinary tract infections, chronic bronchitis, ear infections and a host of other ailments just got a lot cheaper.

Publix Super Markets began offering a 14-day supply of seven antibiotics free of

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charge last week. The antibiotics are Amoxicillin, Cephalexin, Sulfamethoxazole/Trimethoprim, Ciprofloxacin, Ampicillin and Erythromycin.

“It doesn’t matter if you have insurance, or lack of insurance or even Medicaid. All you need is a legitimate prescription from a physician,” said Publix spokeswoman Shannon Patten. “We understand that some of our customers are struggling financially, making decisions between food and their medical needs. We’re striving to be the pharmacy of choice for our customers.”

These antibiotics account for almost 50 percent of the generic, pediatric prescriptions filled at Publix. The store is not limiting the number of prescriptions customers may fill for free.

“Health and wellness is crucial to every Floridian’s quality of life and paramount to the vitality of our state,” said Florida Gov. Charlie Crist. “We appreciate great partners like Publix Super Markets working to further provide affordability and accessibility to quality prescription drugs for working families and seniors.”

The free drug program is being offered at all of Publix’s 684 pharmacies. The antibiotics normally cost from \$10 to \$60 per prescription.

“We are always striving to provide our customers with service and value,” said Dwaine Stevens, Publix media and community relations manager. “With health care and prescription costs on the rise, our free prescription drug program will reinforce our commitment to the total health and wellness of our customers and their families.” ■




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