

Diabetic Macular Edema (DME)

Patient Support

Cost is a major concern for patients, and many will ask you if financial aid is available. Not all eligible patients seek financial help, so be sure to let them know of their options for support. They may also come to you seeking support for their disease.

Financial Concerns

There are several ways a patient can get financial help.

Copay/Savings cards: These cards are issued by pharmaceutical firms to help defray some of the copay or coinsurance costs of a drug.

Physician samples: The doctor can give medication provided by pharmaceutical companies to patients at no cost, most often for the initial treatment.

Patient assistance programs: These are programs established by the pharmaceutical companies to provide drug at no cost to patients. They usually have eligibility requirements.

Third-party assistance foundations: These programs are established by foundations to assist patients with their out-of-pocket costs. These foundations also have eligibility requirements, including income status. If they cannot help, they may refer patients to other sources.

Patient Support

Thanks to the Internet, there is a lot of information available to patients, from facts about DME to transportation services to help them get to and from appointments. There are also online communities that offer support. To help you help your patients with DME, we've compiled a list of various support organizations in the patient section of this piece, on the next page. You can also print out the list from the attached flash drive to hand out or email to your patients.

