1. Where do I find my prescription card?

➤ There are two health benefits cards for prescription benefits:

The first is your service-related health benefits card. This will provide coverage for Primaquine, Praziquantel and up to a 30-day supply (from date of COS) of essential prescription medications that you were taking at Post.

If you do not have a copy of this card, please use the card attached at the end of this document. If you encounter difficulty using this card, please contact the Peace Corps Post Service Unit via email: psu@peacecorps.gov.

➤ The second is your SHIFTT (Short Term Insurance for Transition and Travel). This provides coverage for prescription medications and health conditions that are not service-related.

You may visit IMG Global to obtain a copy of your SHIFTT health benefits card.

2. Which card do I use for prescription benefits?

3. Who is my prescription administrator?

Universal Rx is your prescription drug plan administrator.

4. Where can I receive my prescription medications?

The Universal Rx network of pharmacies includes over 60,000 pharmacy locations nationwide. To find a participating pharmacy, click here or call 1-855-731-9442 for assistance. Universal Rx top 10 participating in-network pharmacies are: ALBERTSONS; COSTCO; CVS; KROGER COMPANY & AFFILIATED CHAINS; MEIJER; PUBLIX; RITE AID; SAFEWAY; WALGREENS; and WALMART.
5. Are my prescriptions medications free?

Both Primaquine and Praziquantel are covered by Peace Corps at 100% of the cost. Your service-related health benefits card (at end of this document) contains all of the information your pharmacist needs. Present your card to have your prescriptions filled at any one of the network pharmacies in your area. If you experience problems in filling your prescriptions, you or your pharmacist can call the pharmacy helpdesk at 1-800-800-7364 or IMG directly at 1-855-731-9442 for assistance.

6. My pharmacy does not have my medication (Praziquantel and Primaquine) in stock, what do I do?

Most pharmacies within the United States do not carry Praziquantel/Biltricide® (used to treat schistosomiasis) and/or Primaquine Phosphate (used as an anti-malarial medication) in stock because they are not common conditions here in the United States. Your pharmacy will most likely need to order the medication, either in advance (if you call ahead of time) or when you come in to fill your prescription. Do not worry if it takes 2-3 weeks for the pharmacy to receive your medication.

7. What else can you tell me about Praziquantel and Primaquine?

Praziquantel is a medication used to treat schistosomiasis (and infection with a type of worm that lives in the bloodstream). It is a class of medication called anthelmintic which works by killing the worms. Though advised to begin immediately following normal COS processes, you have approximately 6 (six) weeks after your last freshwater exposure to begin taking Praziquantel. Once received, please begin taking the medication as prescribed. For information on how to take the medication, please refer to the specific Praziquantel Medication Information Sheet located on LearningSpace: Praziquantel Information Sheet.

Primaquine is given to prevent latent malaria caused by two subtypes. Primaquine treatment starts after you complete your standing malaria prophylaxis. However, if there is an immediate delay in obtaining Primaquine, you can begin taking Primaquine as prescribed as soon as you receive the medication. Peace Corps has consulted with the US CDC and they concur with our guidance. Delaying Primaquine does not decrease the protection against developing vivax or ovale malaria nor does it increase your risk for infection. If you develop symptoms after stopping your principal prophylaxis and before taking your Primaquine however, please inform Peace Corps Post Service Unit and contact your primary care provider. For information on how to take your medication, please refer to the specific Primaquine Medication Information Sheet located on LearningSpace: Primaquine Information Sheet.

8. What information does the pharmacist need to fill my prescription?

Your health benefits card includes special codes, such as Rx PCN (PDM) & Rx BIN numbers (610020), which allows a pharmacist to complete your transaction. Without these codes, a prescription cannot be filled.

9. Do I need my member ID and group #?

Your health benefits card includes a member ID number, which is your volunteer ID number and group number which is Rx Group #99992810 for Returned Volunteers. Both of these numbers help the pharmacy find your prescription information in their systems.

10. Who can I contact for help with prescriptions?

The Peace Corps is committed to ensuring that for your first month home you have a supply of the essential medications you were taking in your country of service. If you have less than a 30-day supply (from date of return to US), please call 1-202-692-1540 and select option 2.
Should you or a pharmacist need help finding information or help with filling a prescription, please have your pharmacist contact Universal RX’s help desk: 1-800-800-7364.

Service Related Health Benefits Card: