Free Lunch

January 1, 2003 By Josh Sparber

Empty pockets don’t have to mean empty medicine cabinets. Check out the Access Project (www.atdn.org/access) for more info on these three programs that cough up pills for nil. And we’re not just talking a complimentary handfull:

PATIENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS: Big Pharma goes that extra mile to get meds to HIVers without public or private insurance. *Ka-ching!*

AIDS DRUG ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS (ADAPs): Under- or uninsured? You may be eligible for state-paid meds. Get ’em while funding lasts -- and if you’re wait-listed, don’t take it personally.

EXPANDED ACCESS PROGRAMS: Dying for a new treatment option? Most companies offer early dibs on promising drugs prior to FDA approval. But restrictions (such as CD4 and viral load cutoffs) may apply.

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