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## It’s All About the Life in Your Years

Darlene enjoys traveling and seeing the world. Her travel adventures give her life meaning and joy. But lately, Darlene’s health has brought her travel plans to a halt. She’s been having difficulty breathing.

It’s terrifying to be gasping for air and unable to catch her breath, and Darlene has been to the emergency room a few times for treatment. The doctors diagnosed her with sarcoidosis, a rare, devastating health condition. It has caused scar tissue to build up in her lungs, making it harder for her to breathe. All of Darlene’s medical care is starting to add up—she has accrued more than \$40,000 in billed charges from all her visits to the ER.

### A possible treatment

Darlene knows something needs to change. Her condition is severe and will impact the length of her life—but she heard somewhere that it’s not about the years in your life, but the life in your years. She wants to feel better and continue to see as much of the world as she can. She makes an appointment with a specialist for help.

Her doctor notes there isn’t currently a medication made specifically to treat her condition. However, one medication has helped others in clinical trials. Darlene feels hopeful.

Then she receives news that her plan doesn’t cover this medication because it’s technically an experimental treatment. She’s not sure how she can afford the medication without coverage, and she needs it to help her breathe easier, and improve the quality of her life.

### The CARE program from Meritain Health<sup>®</sup>

Darlene has a health care benefits plan administered by Meritain Health. As part of her Meritain Health Pharmacy Solutions coverage, she receives prescription support through the Meritain Health CARE Program. Through this program, a pharmacy professional reviews Darlene’s case and starts looking immediately for a way to help. The pharmacist finds a patient assistance program through the drug manufacturer that helps patients without coverage for the medication who are in need of support. Darlene qualifies, and therefore the program is available to help her get her medication.

### Drug savings and relief

The pharmacist contacts Darlene to let her know about this great news. The program will provide the medication to her—free of charge! She’s overjoyed—she’s excited to begin treatment and start feeling more like herself.

The CARE Program is able to save Darlene more than \$3,500 per year on the cost of her medication and save her employer over \$80,000 per year. Most importantly, Darlene’s medication has helped her feel much better. She’s thankful she can get back to the life she loves for as long as she can.

*This story is based on an actual member experience. Names and information have been changed to protect the member’s privacy.*

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