

Specialty Pharmacies: Helping Patients, Saving Money



What is a specialty pharmacy?

Specialty pharmacies have the technology and clinical expertise to ensure safe, high-quality, and affordable care for patients receiving specialty medications.

Pharmacists and clinicians at specialty pharmacies offer support to patients with complex medical conditions, such as:

- Blood disorders
- HIV/AIDS
- Infertility
- Multiple sclerosis
- Cancer
- Crohn's disease

Why do health plans use specialty pharmacies?

Health plans establish robust specialty pharmacy networks to provide their members with access to highly trained pharmacists and clinicians providing cost-effective specialty prescription medications.

How do specialty pharmacies help patients?

High-Quality, Accredited Specialty Sites

Specialty pharmacies must meet strict state and national standards to be included in health plans' networks, ensuring quality and safety for members.

24/7 Access to Specialty Clinicians

Specialty pharmacies provide health plan members with 24/7 access to highly-trained clinicians and pharmacists specializing in complex conditions.

Expert Care Management

Specialty pharmacies provide consultations to address medication side effects and care management to assist in medication adherence.

Secure and Direct Delivery

Health plan members can receive secure and direct delivery of specialty medications through their specialty pharmacy, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

#DYK? Less than 1% of prescription drug claims account for over 30% of prescription drug spending in Massachusetts



Health plans selectively contract with specialty pharmacy networks to ensure safe, high-quality, and cost-effective specialty medications. Any willing pharmacy (AWP) laws assume that all pharmacy services are the same, no matter who provides them or how they are organized. Specialty pharmacy requires a higher degree of organization, care management, and clinical knowledge about rare disorders and biologic products than is often available in a retail pharmacy.