

Exclusive specialty pharmacy

A prescription for better health and lower cost



The big picture

As an employer, you know it's tough to help keep employees healthy. And if they have long-term chronic conditions, they often need specialty drugs and more resources to help them take care of their health. This is where our exclusive specialty pharmacy program can help. It is part of your prescription benefit plan and gives your employees access to therapy-specific tools, resources, and clinical support.

The program focuses on helping your employees take their medicine as prescribed so the drugs can be most effective. And that can translate into better health and lower the cost of care.

The result

The exclusive specialty pharmacy program is a great way to help members manage their health. Here's a look at how using the specialty pharmacy program gets better results than using a retail pharmacy:

For inflammatory conditions, such as Crohn's disease or rheumatoid arthritis:²

- 16% improved medication adherence
- 9.3% lower risk of hospitalization
- 13.3% lower risk of ER visits
- \$1,520 less medical costs

For multiple sclerosis:³

- 32% improved medication adherence
- 39% fewer hospitalizations
- 38% fewer ER visits
- \$3,000 per member per year medical cost savings

How it benefits you

Employers benefit when employees who take specialty drugs are healthier. Fewer hospital stays and ER visits mean employees can be more productive at work.

How it benefits your employees

With the exclusive specialty pharmacy program, employees have access to a care management program that provides one-on-one support from pharmacists and nurses who specialize in the employee's health condition. The specialty pharmacy team calls employees regularly to:

- Go over how and when to take their medicine.
- Help them manage any side effects.
- Monitor their health.

The cost of specialty drugs

Less than 1% of prescriptions filled in 2013 were for specialty drugs — but they made up over 28% of total prescription costs.¹ The average monthly cost of specialty drugs can range from \$2,000 to \$3,000. For some members, the cost can reach \$100,000 a month.

The member experience

The exclusive specialty pharmacy program requires members to use an in-network specialty pharmacy for specialty drugs to be covered. Our goal is to make sure your employees transition smoothly from a retail pharmacy to a specialty pharmacy provider. For most plans, Accredo Specialty Pharmacy is the network specialty pharmacy.

Here's how the program works:

1. When an employee fills a prescription for a drug on the Exclusive Specialty Pharmacy Drug List at a retail pharmacy, Anthem Blue Cross sends a letter. We tell the employee that for the drug to be covered, the prescription has to be moved to the specialty pharmacy before the next fill. We explain the benefits and how to get started. The employee also gets an automated phone call as a reminder.
2. When the employee reaches the last retail fill allowed, we send a final letter, and a specialty pharmacy associate calls the employee to help with the transition.
3. After getting the prescription, a specialty pharmacy associate calls the employee to schedule the delivery of the medicine.

When employees contact Accredo, they can sign up for a care management program that's specific to their health conditions. Nurses make follow-up calls to:

- Do health assessments.
- Provide information about the drug or health condition.
- Offer counseling on managing side effects and symptoms.

This personal outreach helps employees stay on their medications as prescribed. If there are issues, the specialty pharmacy team contacts the doctors, as needed.

Therapy-specific care management programs:

- Asthma
- Cancer
- Crohn's disease
- Cystic fibrosis
- Enzyme replacement
- Growth hormone deficiency
- Hemophilia
- Hepatitis
- HIV/AIDS
- Immune deficiencies
- Iron overload
- Multiple sclerosis
- Psoriasis
- Pulmonary arterial hypertension
- Rheumatoid arthritis
- Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)
- Transplant

For more information, contact your Anthem representative.

¹ Express Scripts 2013 Drug Trends Report Highlights (April 2014).

² Barlow JF, Farris RF, et al: Impact of Specialty Pharmacy on Treatment Costs for Rheumatoid Arthritis, Am J Pharm Benefits (2012).

³ Results presented at the 15th Annual International Society of Pharmacoeconomic Outcomes Research Meeting, Atlanta, GA, May 2010. Medco book of business Health Outcomes Solutions analysis, 2007 data, 2008 analysis.

