

What HCPs need to know about specialty pharmacies



What is a specialty pharmacy?

It is a pharmacy that manages the handling, dispensing, and special requirements of specialty drugs, such as those used to treat chronic hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection.



What makes specialty drugs “special”?

- Unique handling or shipping needs, such as refrigeration
- A specific way of being taken or used, such as injection
- Required insurance approvals, which is sometimes a complex process
- Monitoring needed to judge its effectiveness and identify side effects



What is the role of the patient’s insurance carrier?

- Directs the HCP to use specific specialty pharmacies
- Will require a prior authorization (PA) for most specialty medications

What if the insurance company does not require a specialty pharmacy?

Working with a specialty pharmacy may still offer benefits to patients (such as clinical pharmacy support services) and to those practices without an in-house pharmacist.



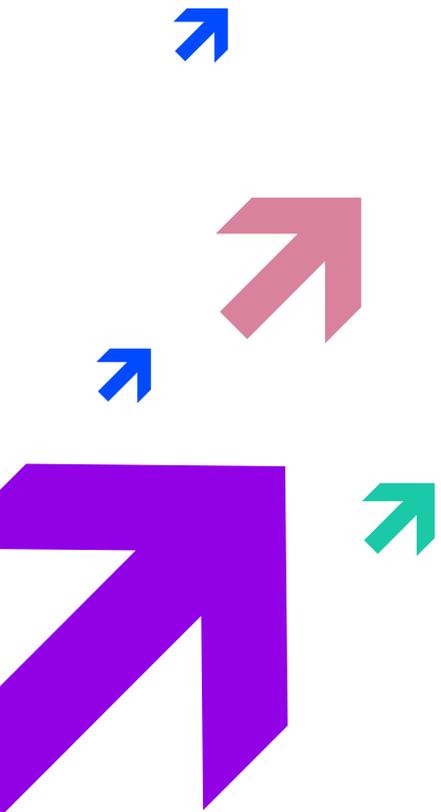
What is a prior authorization (PA)?

Certain medications may need approval from your patient’s health insurance carrier before they’re covered. Some plans do not require a PA.

What if a patient’s insurance plan doesn’t require a PA for HCV direct-acting antiviral (DAA) medications?

A specialty pharmacy is not required for fulfillment. Patients may then be able to get their prescriptions filled at local pharmacies. However, not all local pharmacies stock specialty medications.

HCPs = healthcare providers.



For more information about hepatitis C, please visit

HCV.com

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How to work with a specialty pharmacy

- Submit prescription electronically to the specialty pharmacy
- The specialty pharmacy will confirm your patient's coverage (benefit verification)
- Include required prior authorization information (lab tests, medication history, etc.)
- Once the insurance carrier approves the medication, the specialty pharmacy will contact your patient to arrange payment and delivery



What are some of the benefits for you—and your patients—to work with a specialty pharmacy?

Specialty pharmacists often work with patients to:

- Remind them of refill dates
- Provide patient training and education
- Monitor for adverse events
- Ensure that other aspects are fulfilled, such as lab-test scheduling

Specialty pharmacists work with physicians and case managers to:

- Ensure medication adherence
- Resolve any problems and coordinate changes in therapy
- Offer disease management programs



Retail vs specialty pharmacies

	RETAIL	SPECIALTY
Types of prescriptions filled	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prescriptions for short- and long-term conditions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only specialty-drug prescriptions
How prescription is fulfilled	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patient can pick up or have it mailed to them 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prescription is mailed or couriered to the patient, sometimes delivered with special handling, such as refrigeration
Insurance approval/requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prescriptions are usually approved on the same day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Often the use of a specialty pharmacy is required by the patient's insurance • More complex insurance approval often needed • Typically takes a few days for insurance approval