

# 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.



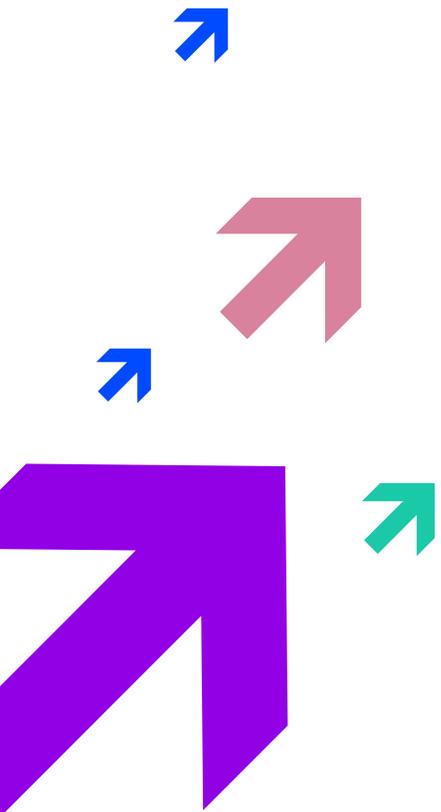
## What is a prior authorization (PA)?

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
- Include required prior authorization information (lab tests, medication history, etc.)
- The specialty pharmacy will confirm your patient's coverage (benefit verification)
- 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
<b>Types of prescriptions filled</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prescriptions for short- and long-term conditions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only specialty-drug prescriptions</li> </ul>
<b>How prescription is fulfilled</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patient can pick up or have it mailed to them</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prescription is mailed or couriered to the patient, sometimes delivered with special handling, such as refrigeration</li> </ul>
<b>Insurance approval/requirements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prescriptions are usually approved on the same day</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Often the use of a specialty pharmacy is required by the patient's insurance</li> <li>• More complex insurance approval often needed</li> <li>• Typically takes a few days for insurance approval</li> </ul>