



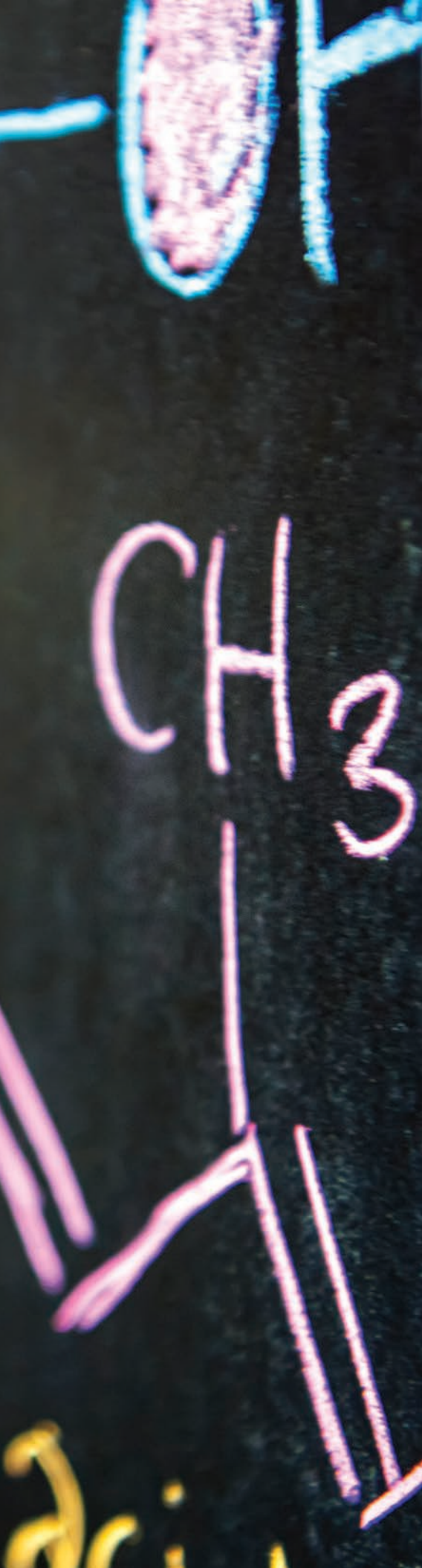
SPECIALTY MEDICATIONS: FULFILLING THEIR PROMISE

**The Path to Making Breakthrough Treatments
Accessible, Affordable, and Effective**



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Specialty medications

, which once occupied a very small niche in the U.S. pharmacy market, now make up the prevailing category across the pharmaceutical research and development pipeline. The specialty market is projected to grow by 8% annually between 2020 and 2025, with an expansion of more than \$100 billion during this time.¹

Specialty medications treat rare, chronic, and complex diseases, and the massive influx of innovation in this space has the potential to advance the health and lives of millions of people. However, these breakthrough therapies can come at high costs — often more than \$2,000 per month² and an average of \$38,000 per year per patient.³ Specialty medications are already driving more than half of overall drug spending in the United States,⁴ and the added expense of future products could threaten the sustainability of the health care system.

In addition, many specialty medications require specific handling and temperature-controlled storage, making distribution more complex and adding costs. The treatment itself is multifaceted — many medications are administered via injection, infusion or inhalation, as well as require a high degree of clinical expertise and meticulous oversight to ensure patients receive safe, quality care that facilitates positive health outcomes.

Cigna Corporation and its health services organization, Evernorth, are dedicated to solving these challenges for today and tomorrow — by leveraging the expertise of Evernorth's subsidiaries: its specialty pharmacy, Accredo®; its pharmacy benefits manager, Express Scripts®; and its medical benefits manager, eviCore Healthcare®.

This paper explores the latest trends, analysis, and proposed path forward to help ensure patients can access specialty medication treatment safely, appropriately, and in the most cost-effective way, thereby providing meaningful value for patients, payers, and the health care ecosystem.

The path forward:

1. Work to control costs for payers and patients to increase treatment access.
2. Promote appropriate medication usage for safe and effective care.



PART 1

Advancements in Specialty Medicine Dominate the Pharmaceutical Landscape

MASSIVE ACCELERATION OF SPECIALTY PHARMACOLOGICAL INNOVATION

Specialty medicines — which include biologics, biosimilars, and gene and cell therapies — comprise the majority of emerging medications across the pharmaceutical pipeline.

In 2021, the FDA approved **53 novel drugs**, **40** of which **are specialty medications**.⁵



By 2023, **2/3** of new drug launches **will be specialty therapies**, many for rare diseases and cancers with small patient populations.⁶



Specialty medications come in different forms, including:



Biologics

These include vaccines, blood and blood components, allergenics, tissues, and somatic cells. Typically produced by biotechnology methods and other cutting-edge technologies.

- ▶ Approximately **4,500** are currently in development.⁷



Biosimilars

Biological products created to be highly similar to, and sometimes interchangeable with, an existing FDA-approved biologic medication (or reference biologic).

Can potentially lower biologic treatment costs via increased competition.

- ▶ **38** have been approved over the past six years; **22** have been launched in the market; at least **9** are currently not available for use in the United States due to patent extensions of the reference biologics.⁸
- ▶ **10** biologics set to have their patents expire by 2025 have at least one developed biosimilar ready to be launched.⁹



Gene and cell therapies

Biologics designed to modify a person's genes or cells to help treat (or potentially cure) conditions such as cancers (e.g., B-cell lymphoma, leukemia) and genetic diseases (e.g., congenital athymia, spinal muscular atrophy). They are also a potential treatment for infectious diseases (e.g., AIDS, cytomegalovirus).

Most treat rare conditions that affect relatively few people (from a few hundred to a few thousand Americans).

- ▶ **8** are currently approved by the FDA.¹⁰
- ▶ **600+** are currently in development.¹¹
- ▶ **10 to 20** are expected to be approved each year, beginning in 2025.¹²

New-to-market medications are the primary drivers of the expanding specialty pharmacy market, estimated to account for more than half of the projected growth through 2025.¹³

Estimated specialty drug market growth through 2025:

\$118B

Increased use of existing specialty drugs



New-to-market specialty medications:

\$62B



EXPANDING PATIENT POPULATION IS A SIGNIFICANT FACTOR IN DEMAND FOR SPECIALTY MEDICATIONS

As the number of people living with chronic health conditions continues to increase, the focus on specialty medications continues to expand.

- ▶ There were more than 16.9 million people living in the United States with a history of invasive cancer as of January 1, 2019.¹⁴ Since then, it is estimated that approximately 1.8 million new cases were diagnosed in 2020 and nearly 1.9 million new cases in 2021.¹⁵ This trend is expected to continue, with an estimated 1.9 million new cases anticipated in 2022.¹⁶
- ▶ More than 25 million people in the United States are living with an autoimmune disease, which causes a person's immune system to attack part of their body (e.g., lupus, rheumatoid arthritis, Crohn's disease, and ulcerative colitis).¹⁷ The prevalence of these conditions is expected to rise, according to a research study led by the National Institutes of Health.¹⁸

Some specialty drug pipelines are also expanding their scope to include conditions that affect larger patient populations. For example, the pipeline for gene and cell therapies, which were typically used to treat extremely rare diseases, now includes promising treatments for less rare conditions such as hemophilia A, affecting approximately 16,000 people in the United States;¹⁹ Duchenne muscular dystrophy, affecting approximately 17,000;²⁰ and even prostate cancer, of which there were more than 250,000 new cases reported in 2021.²¹

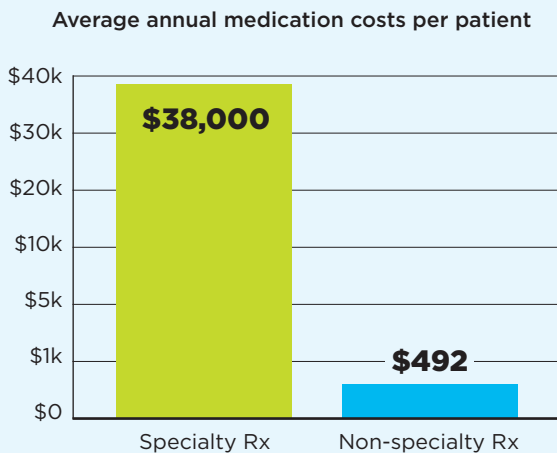
These breakthrough treatments can be critical for these patients, but they can also be expensive, presenting cost challenges for both patients and health plans.

SPECIALTY MEDICATIONS CAN BE COSTLY AND CONTINUE TO BE THE PRIME DRIVER OF OVERALL PHARMACY SPEND

Specialty drugs are among the most expensive medications on the market, typically costing more than \$2,000 per month per patient.²² Some specialty treatments can run up to \$100,000 per year or more.²³

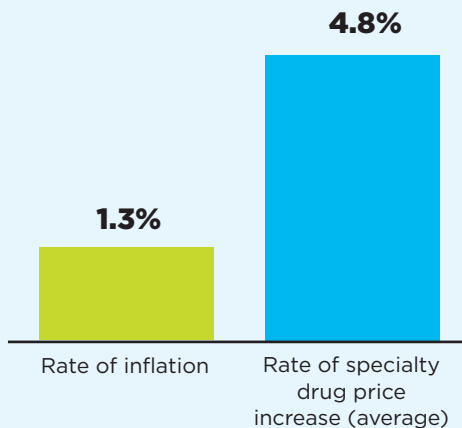
Specialty medications account for more than half (51%) of total U.S. pharmacy spend, even though they are used by only 2% of the U.S. population.²⁶

Evernorth's experience: The average annual cost of specialty drug therapy is **\$38,000** per patient, which is **75 times higher** than non-specialty prescription drugs.²⁴



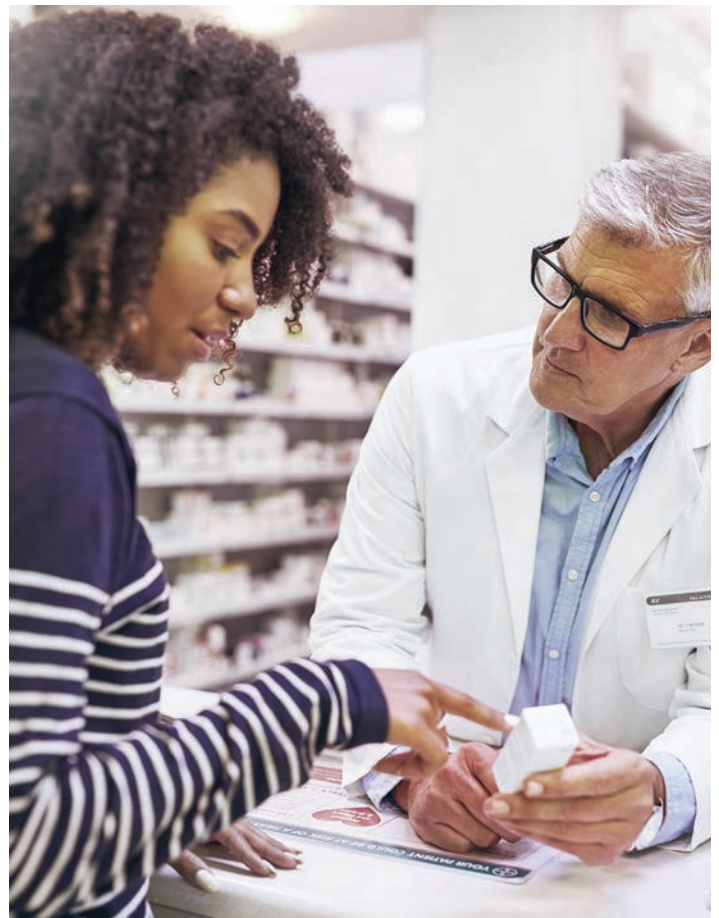
Specialty drug costs continue to rise

The average price of specialty drugs increased by **4.8% in 2020**, more than **3x** the rate of inflation (1.3%).²⁵ Prices are expected to continue to climb.



DRUG MANUFACTURERS CREATE BARRIERS TO ACCESS

Most specialty medications are listed at premium prices by pharmaceutical manufacturers because they face very little competition; in some cases, these medications are the only treatment for conditions that have historically been untreatable. In addition, manufacturers intentionally restrict market competition using tactics such as patent "thickets," which are created by acquiring multiple U.S. patents related to a single biologic; this may effectively extend the length of protection and delay the release of more affordable biosimilars and bioequivalent generics. Such actions by drug manufacturers continue to create barriers for the very people they aim to help.





PART 2

The Path to Making Breakthrough Treatments Accessible, Affordable, and Effective

While the remarkable pace of innovation and growth in specialty pharmaceuticals is exciting news from a treatment standpoint, the success of these breakthrough medications will depend on the ability of the health care system to effectively manage them. This means making sure the patients who need these medications can easily receive as well as properly use them.

As leaders in pharmacy management innovation, Cigna and Evernorth have solutions in place to enable access and affordability of specialty medications as well as facilitate safe and effective use throughout the course of treatment.

1. **Drive access and affordability:** Leveraging payment and care management expertise to lower payer expense, mitigate patient out-of-pocket costs, and advance competition for health care cost savings.
2. **Help ensure patients receive the best care possible:** Connecting patients to the most appropriate and cost-effective medications, in a preferred treatment setting, with safe and proper usage — to achieve maximum outcomes with minimum systemic waste.

Comprehensive specialty care management drives value for payers and patients

Evernorth offers a full suite of services and capabilities provided by:

- **Accredo** specialty pharmacy
- **Express Scripts** pharmacy benefits management
- **CuraScript SD®** specialty distribution
- **eviCore** medical benefits management

These Evernorth organizations combine decades of expertise in the delivery of effective specialty drug treatment, value-based care, and enhanced benefits management solutions to achieve positive clinical outcomes and reduce unnecessary costs.



1. Drive Access and Affordability

FOR PAYERS

Negotiating with scale and expertise lowers treatment costs

FOR PATIENTS

Mitigating out-of-pocket expenses supports utilization

FOR THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

Fostering competition in the specialty drug market unlocks long-term savings potential

FOR PAYERS: SCALE AND EXPERT MANAGEMENT LOWER TREATMENT COSTS

With specialty medication treatments leading health care spend, Evernorth has a number of innovative approaches to control costs and enable payers to cover these groundbreaking therapies for their membership.

Industry-Leading Negotiation and Purchasing Power Drive Down Costs

Evernorth harnesses decades of experience to drive value for clients and members. By leveraging the substantial volume across its business, Evernorth builds considerable purchasing power that helps lower the costs for these medications and helps reduce specialty treatment expense overall.

SafeGuardRx value-based solutions drive improved health outcomes while lowering cost of care for specialty conditions

SafeGuardRx® enables Evernorth to lead in value-based specialty solutions. Leveraging unmatched supply chain partnerships, Evernorth employs various cost-containment tools to control specialty drug spend, including:

- › Indication-based management, which aligns payments to the drug's effectiveness of treating a particular condition
- › Integrated care model that provides access to industry-leading digital health tools
- › Refunds from early discontinuation or unachieved clinical outcomes
- › Cost caps for high-cost drugs
- › Utilization management savings

Payers can take advantage of cost savings by enrolling in Evernorth's SafeGuardRx Care Value programs, which also offer specialized clinical support and condition-specific patient engagement to improve outcomes.

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In 2021, participating plans saved:²⁷

\$264M

from the Inflammatory + Atopic Conditions Care ValueSM program, which addresses the costliest disease class for plans through indication-based management

\$32M

from the Hepatitis Cure ValueSM program, which successfully lowered the cost of curative treatments by 50% in its first year while maintaining a steady 96% cure rate every year since

\$4.3M

from the Rare Conditions Care ValueSM program's negotiated cost cap

Overall, enrolled payers experienced:²⁸

\$5.5B

in total savings

\$140M

in direct value in the form of discontinuation credits and clinical support tools

Better-controlled pharmacy trend

for the top specialty trend drivers: inflammatory conditions and oncology

14.5%

higher average treatment adherence among members with chronic conditions



Innovative Payment Arrangements Allow Access to the Most Expensive Medications

To better enable payers to provide coverage for high-cost gene therapies, Evernorth continues to craft novel payment systems to help mitigate the cost impact.



Pay-over-time model relieves short-term financial burden

For the gene therapy Zolgensma® (a one-time treatment for children under two years old with extremely rare spinal muscular atrophy), which costs \$2.1 million per dose, Accredo arranges a full up-front payment for the drug to the manufacturer and then receives reimbursement payments from the payer over time (up to five years). This relieves short-term budget constraints for state programs, small payers, and self-insured employers.



Embarc Benefit Protection offers financial protection for an entire payer population by offsetting high costs for the few in need

For Zolgensma, as well as one-time gene therapies Zynteglo® (to treat a rare transfusion-dependent blood disease, at a cost of \$2.8 million) and Luxturna® (to treat an inherited retinal disease, at a cost of \$850,000), Evernorth's Embarc Benefit ProtectionSM program allows payers to pay a fixed amount of only 99 cents per member per month for access to its exclusive gene therapy network. When covered members meet the criteria to receive benefit protection for one of these therapies, neither they nor the payer incur any additional costs for the drug. This solution can support payers covering gene therapies on either the pharmacy benefit or medical benefit.

Cross-Benefit Specialty Drug Management Optimizes Efficiency and Savings

Specialty medication treatment may be covered exclusively under the pharmacy benefit, solely under the medical benefit, or possibly under both benefits. Many payers manage medications billed under their pharmacy benefit and medical benefit separately because they typically have different claims systems and separate provider contracts. This fragmented system of specialty drug management can lead to inappropriate levels of treatment, duplicated claims, misaligned benefit designs, and wasted health care dollars.

Evernorth's Medical Drug Management program helps payers achieve comprehensive oversight on a single digital platform, with full visibility of a patient's specialty medications, utilization, and related spend. Leveraging the expertise of Express Scripts and deep platform integration with eviCore, the program enables payers to apply consistent and effective management of specialty medication treatment across both benefit plans. This aligned approach improves administrative efficiency, reduces waste and enables the creation of new innovative products and programs to further help manage the growing cross-benefit specialty drug trend.



FOR PATIENTS: COPAY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS HELP ADDRESS COST BARRIERS BY MITIGATING OUT-OF-POCKET EXPENSES

Cigna and Evernorth's efforts to address specialty drug costs include connecting patients with resources to help pay for the medicines they need. For example, Accredo refers patients to copay assistance programs offered by drug manufacturers and charitable foundations. These programs can enable patients to alleviate out-of-pocket costs, making it easier to start and stay on their therapy.



Accredo coordinated

\$1.7B

in copay assistance for patients in 2021 and more than

\$5B

in assistance since 2016.²⁹



98%

of specialty drugs dispensed by Accredo have an assistance program available.³⁰

FOR THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM: FOSTERING COMPETITION TO LOWER TREATMENT COSTS IN THE LONG TERM

Competition in the specialty market is a powerful tool to lower pharmaceutical costs, and it can help drive health care affordability. Biosimilars in particular hold tremendous long-term savings potential through increased competition with branded biologics — an estimated **\$225 billion to \$375 billion** in reduced drug spending by 2031.³¹

The U.S. Congress recognized this potential more than a decade ago, when it passed the Biologics Price Competition and Innovation Act (BPCI Act) to create a faster approval process for biosimilars so they can be readily available for treatment. Cigna and Evernorth have actively supported this federal biosimilar pathway since its inception and persistently advocate for additional policy changes to limit unfair development of patent thickets and other anticompetitive practices that currently hinder approved biosimilars from entering the pharmaceutical market.

In addition, Cigna and Evernorth continue their efforts to champion specialty market competition, advancing the clinical and financial promise of these medicines for the health care system.

Accelerating Adoption through Formulary Decisions

One method of increasing access to biosimilars and other specialty drugs is including them on formularies, which list the medications covered by a health plan as treatment for a given condition, as clinically appropriate. Cigna and Evernorth's formulary development process helps support patient access to the most clinically viable and cost-effective specialty medication options, which may include biosimilar choices.

Cigna and Evernorth will continue to employ rigorous clinical and financial reviews of new biosimilars and generic specialty drugs as they become available. They will also incorporate specialty medications that drive positive health outcomes into the formulary options for clients to select for their benefit plans, based on their unique situation.

Increasing Appropriate Patient Use

When a lower-cost biosimilar is an appropriate treatment option, Cigna may encourage its use over the reference biologic through educational and incentive programs.

Significant savings from a biosimilar switch

Biosimilars Avsola® and Inflectra® are FDA-approved alternatives to Remicade®, a brand-name biologic used to treat inflammatory conditions, such as Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, psoriasis, and rheumatoid and psoriatic arthritis. To encourage patients using Remicade to consider these cost-saving alternatives, Cigna introduced a Shared Savings Program, which offers a one-time customer incentive for health care services and products for switching to an approved biosimilar, after consultation with their providers to ensure that the switch is clinically appropriate.



This approach led to an estimated

\$40M reduction in annual treatment costs.³²



BEST-IN-CLASS SPECIALTY DRUG ACCESS AND DISTRIBUTION

In the specialty pharmaceuticals space, drug manufacturers may choose a limited number of pharmacies to dispense their products, due to the specialized capabilities that are needed to handle, store, dispense, and administer these complex medications. In some cases, there are also strict guidelines that govern the process.

Accredo is one of the leading specialty pharmacies in the country, offering access to **99%** of all specialty medications on

the market, including **nearly three-quarters** of all limited and exclusive distribution specialty drugs. Currently, two FDA-approved gene therapies, Zolgensma and Luxturna, are available only through Accredo.

Distributing these medications from the manufacturers to Accredo requires a safe and secure supply chain. This is provided by CuraScript SD, one of the top specialty distributors in the United States, which has particular expertise in

handling infused and injectable medications as well as rare disease and orphan drugs. In addition to Accredo, CuraScript SD serves over **12,000** providers across the country, delivering these critical medications to other specialty pharmacies, physician practices, health systems, infusion centers, and other sites of care. CuraScript SD's extensive supply chain capabilities help ensure reliable delivery of specialty medications from the manufacturer to the providers of patient care.



2. Help Ensure Patients Receive the Best Care Possible

Cigna and Evernorth implement a myriad of strategies to help ensure safe and proper specialty treatment that improves overall health outcomes:

- Leveraging prior authorization to quickly connect patients to the most appropriate, cost-effective medications
- Guiding patients to a preferred site of care for convenience and savings
- Helping people take their specialty medication correctly to enhance safety, adherence, and effectiveness
- Optimizing the proper dosage at every stage of treatment
- Providing support for nutritional and mental health issues that may otherwise impede treatment

Prior Authorization Connects Patients to the Most Appropriate, Cost-Effective Medications

Beginning specialty drug treatment is much more complex than traditional medication, and plans typically use prior authorizations to gather all of the information they need to be sure that the specialty medication prescribed for each person is the right drug at the correct dosage and duration, based on clinical evidence. Prior authorizations also drive additional value by enabling Evernorth to deploy its case management and utilization management capabilities early in the patient's treatment journey. This helps ensure safety by checking for possible adverse combinations with the patient's other prescribed medications. This also improves affordability

by identifying lower-cost, clinically effective alternative medications covered under the patient's plan benefit.

To enable a faster process, Accredo adopted electronic prior authorizations, automating the secure collection of patient data from the electronic health record and reducing the need to follow up with the prescribers for this information. This decreases the turnaround time for Accredo to complete the prescription process by nearly two days,³³ helping patients get started on therapy in a safe and timely manner.

Oncology consult service connects cancer patients with expert-recommended care options

Evernorth's oncology consult service program identifies eligible patients with a complex cancer case using data analytics during the prior authorization process. This service connects treating physicians with experts from the country's leading cancer centers for a consultation before treatment begins. This expert review helps ensure an accurate and complete diagnosis based on the latest evidence; it also helps patients receive the most appropriate care available, with no delays in treatment.



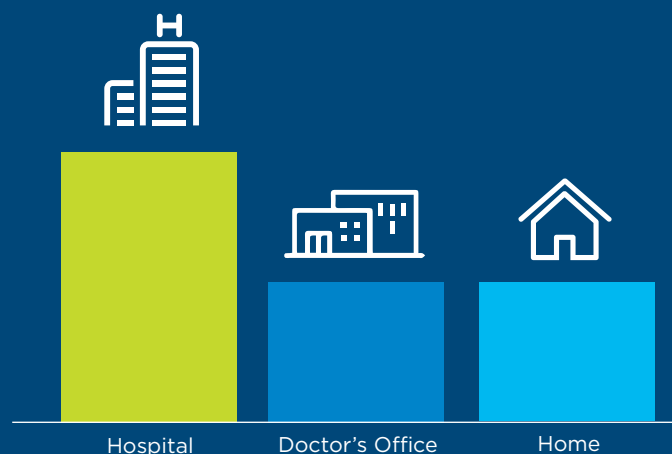
A Preferred Care Setting for Convenience and Cost Savings

In some cases, patients need to have their medication administered in a hospital setting. However, there are often more affordable and convenient options where they can safely receive their treatment, such as a doctor's office, an infusion center, or even their home, administered by a nurse. Cigna and Evernorth have protocols in place to guide patients to the most cost-effective, easy-to-access, clinically appropriate site of care.



Costs can vary widely depending on the site of care

Hospitals often charge **nearly two times** more than a doctor's office or home setting, on average.³⁴



Site-of-care reviews help ensure the right site of care, right from the start

Cigna's dedicated Specialty Care Options team reviews site-of-care options for each patient to determine the best specialty drug infusion setting that will offer quality care and service at the lowest cost. This evaluation is based on clinical appropriateness for each individual's specific needs and condition.

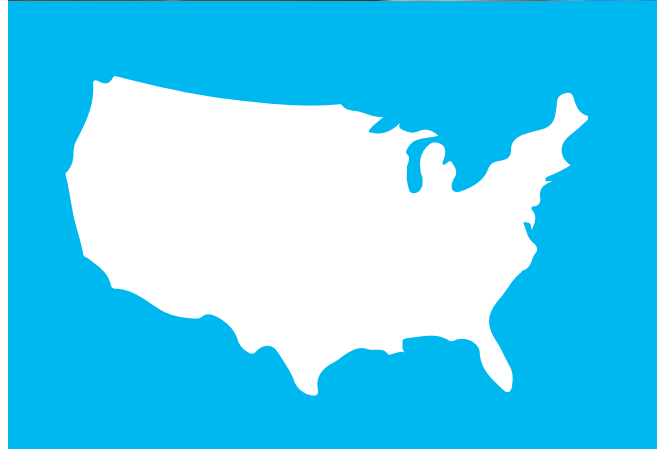
This review is tied in to the prior authorization process for specialty medication treatment, effectively referring patients to a preferred care setting that best meets their needs before the drug is first dispensed.

Average savings: Roughly \$81,000 per successful referral per year³⁵



Accredo enables specialty pharmaceutical care at home

Accredo employs a network of 600 specially trained home infusion nurses, covering nearly 100% of the continental United States, who can administer specialty medications to patients at home. They also conduct virtual sessions to provide additional care support.



During the COVID-19 pandemic, Accredo home infusion nurses:³⁶

TRAVELED MORE THAN

14M

miles to see patients

MADE MORE THAN

200K

in-person visits and held more than **28K** virtual sessions

SPENT MORE THAN

550K

hours caring for patients in their homes and providing virtual support

Certain specialty medications can be self-administered and are shipped by Accredo directly to patients, along with clear instructions and expert clinical support to help ensure proper use. Accredo's digital tools help reinforce effective self-administered treatment by providing patients with automated dose and refill reminders, educational information, and 24/7 access to specialty pharmacists and nurses.

When clinically appropriate, specialty medication administered at home can lower treatment costs by 44%, on average, compared to hospital administration.³⁷

Comprehensive Guidance and Monitoring Help Promote Safety and Adherence

Specialty medications often require a complex series of steps, precautions, and adherence protocols throughout the course of treatment. Cigna and Evernorth employ extensive clinical care management and closely monitor patients to ensure they are using their medications correctly and safely. Expert clinical teams provide ongoing, personalized, condition-specific guidance to patients, educating them about their disease state, reviewing their medication regimen, explaining expectations of therapy, and offering proactive strategies to prevent or reduce expected side effects. These teams also conduct regular outreach to check if patients need additional support. This approach supports optimal medication adherence, which helps improve outcomes and avoid hospitalizations and emergency department visits.

Therapeutic Resource Centers offer condition-specific care and guidance

Accredo's Therapeutic Resource Centers employ pharmacists and nurses who have extensive training and experience in specific disease states, such as cancer, rheumatoid arthritis, hematology, asthma, HIV, and multiple sclerosis — and offer one-on-one condition-specific care and consultation to patients.

These experts also conduct regular outreach to physicians to help ensure patients receive the proper medications and the appropriate level of care through the duration of treatment.

Nearly 500 condition-focused pharmacists and 350 proprietary clinical protocols help ensure patients are properly taking their medication, receiving the appropriate dosage, and staying adherent to treatment.

In addition, Cigna and Evernorth developed predictive models that leverage decades of historical data to assess the likelihood of future adherence challenges. These help identify patients who may benefit from clinical intervention in order to keep their treatment on course.

Accredo Specialty Clinical Care Management supports full-spectrum monitoring of patient adherence

Predictive analytics guide proactive outreach, barrier screening, and additional support to patients with a likelihood of non-adherence *before it happens*.

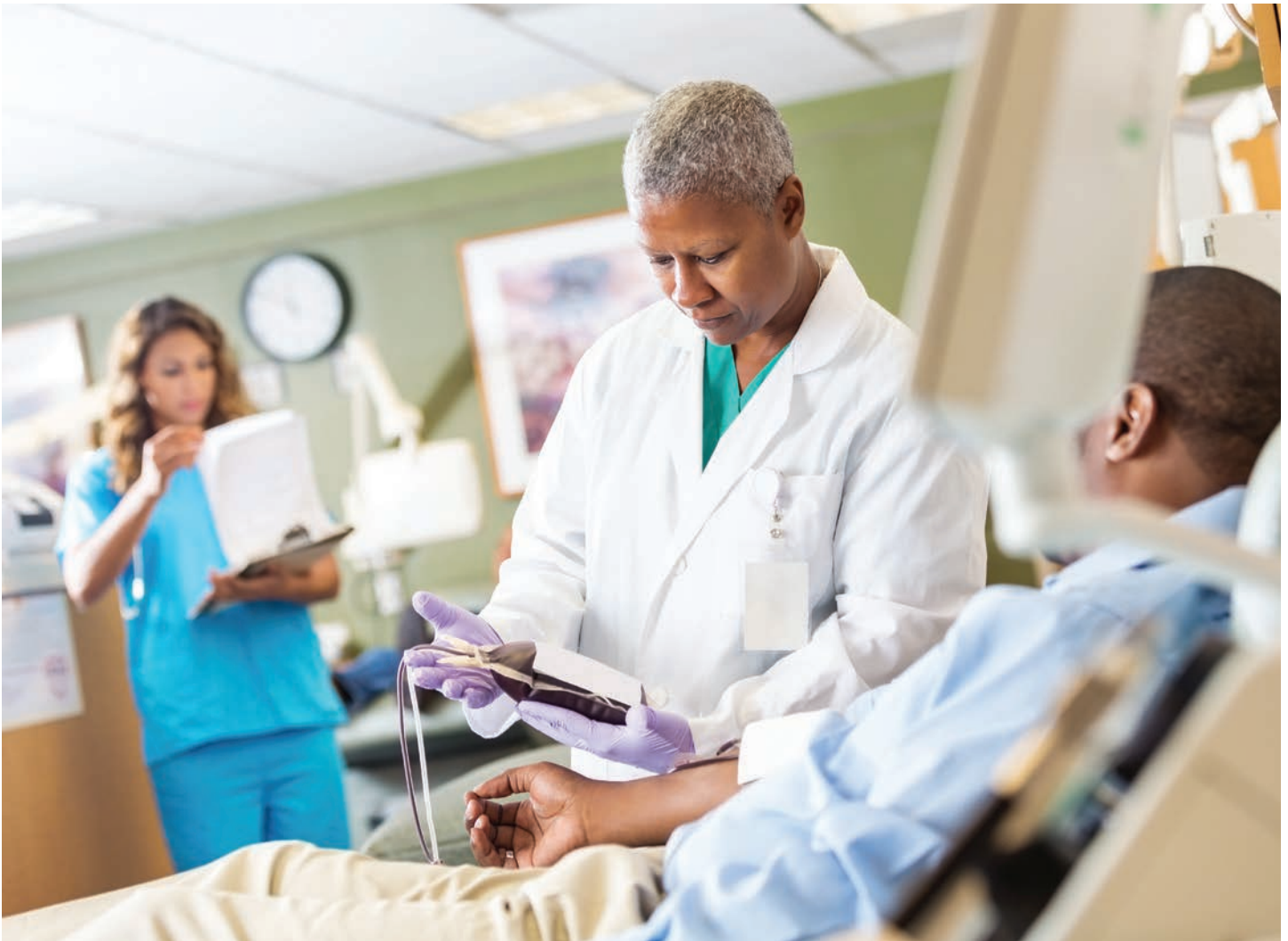
Result: Up to 6.4% increase in average annual medication possession ratio (MPR) among at-risk patients³⁸

MitiGap solution triggers interventions with patients and treating physicians to address late refills *as they happen*.

Result: 19% fewer patients with refill gaps in 18 months, recovering -13 days on therapy³⁹

Adherence Course Correct conducts ongoing monitoring of and coaching outreach for patients who have previously demonstrated non-adherence to *prevent future reoccurrences*.

Result: Up to 12% improvement in patient adherence after coaching intervention⁴⁰



Regimen Optimization Supports Proper Dosage and Deters Waste

Clinical care management helps Cigna and Evernorth support safe prescribing practices by reviewing that both the specialty drug and its dosage are clinically appropriate throughout the patient's treatment journey. This approach includes regimen optimization, which works with the prescribing clinician to appropriately adjust the therapy as needed, reducing potential pharmaceutical waste.

Costly waste prevented for hematology patients

Accredo regularly assesses patients with bleeding disorders who use factor or mAb therapies for preventive treatment. After a period of no bleeds, and with the agreement of the physician, patients may qualify for a change in therapy, which helps avoid medication waste and better manage treatment costs.

Factor regimen optimization:

\$275K

annual treatment savings for one patient⁴¹

mAb regimen optimization:

\$180K

annual treatment savings for one patient⁴²

Supportive Care Services Mitigate Nutritional and Mental Health Issues that May Impede Treatment

Working to ensure safe and proper specialty treatment goes beyond dispensing a medication and educating patients about proper use. Accredo offers expert support services to address nutritional needs and mental health concerns that may otherwise interfere with specialty care.

Nutritional support services. Certain specialty medications have dietary restrictions, may impact appetite, or have potential adverse food-drug interactions. Accredo offers personalized meal planning and other nutritional support from registered dietitians, available via phone or through a proprietary digital engagement platform.

Mental health support. Living with a specialty condition can strain a person's emotional well-being, and many people in specialty treatment experience mental health issues, such as stress, anxiety, and depression, which can negatively affect their adherence to treatment.⁴³ Accredo conducts regular mental health screenings to identify patients in need of immediate support, which is typically provided by Accredo's dedicated team of clinical social workers. These social workers help patients navigate the uncertainties of managing their condition, as well as locate potential social and financial resources to help them address any life needs that may further aggravate stress and anxiety. Accredo can also connect with patients' treating physicians to arrange for more intensive mental health treatment, when needed, and coordinate with payers to help ensure all physical and mental health services work together to help patients achieve optimal health.

Mitigating depression risk with proactive screening and interventions

Accredo conducts proactive depression screening for patients with neurological disorders, such as narcolepsy, Huntington's disease, neuromyelitis optica spectrum disorder, and multiple sclerosis. Patients with depression risk are connected with an Accredo social worker, who can provide support as well as connect patients to helpful community resources. Accredo also notifies patients' physicians for better coordination of care.

Through Accredo's neurology and multiple sclerosis clinical programs:⁴⁴

More than

3,400 patients are screened each week

Nearly

300 patients are identified and assisted each month



CONCLUSION

With pharmaceutical pipeline domination and a high treatment price point, specialty medications continue to be the primary driver of accelerated pharmacological innovation as well as health care spend. The management of specialty medication treatment can be just as complex as the medical conditions these drugs are designed to address.

As leading innovators in specialty medication management, Cigna and Evernorth continue to build and employ a wide array of solutions and support strategies to help drive affordability and enable patients to access the care they need. They are driving competition, executing comprehensive care management strategies, and using their expertise and high-volume negotiating power to lower overall treatment costs. Meanwhile, site-of-care evaluations, home treatment services, connection to copay assistance, and extensive patient monitoring help people get their specialty medications faster, stay more adherent, and receive safe and effective treatment. All of these efforts will continue to help alleviate costs for payers and the health care system, improve patient health and quality of life, and realize the potential of innovative medicines for years to come.



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