

Right Drug Right Channel programs



A better way to manage specialty drugs

The big picture

Health care costs continue to rise, and specialty drugs are a big reason why. Specialty drugs are used to treat complicated and chronic conditions such as immune deficiencies, hepatitis C, cancer, certain inflammatory conditions and multiple sclerosis. Health conditions like these can be difficult to manage. That's why it's important to have a specialty drug strategy in place.

The result

We created the Right Drug Right Channel programs to better manage specialty drugs. Under the Right Drug Right Channel **Medical to Pharmacy** program, certain drugs that are self-administered (members can give themselves) will no longer be covered under the medical benefit. These are drugs members can take without the help of a health care provider, so they're best managed under the pharmacy benefit.

Under the Right Drug Right Channel **Pharmacy to Medical** program, certain drugs usually given by a health care provider will no longer be covered under the pharmacy benefit. These drugs are best managed under the medical benefit.

How it benefits you

The Medical to Pharmacy program may help avoid unnecessary administrative costs because members may not need to visit a health care provider to take their drugs. Moving these drugs to the pharmacy benefit also makes them simpler to manage through methods such as prior authorization, step therapy requirements and drug lists.

The Pharmacy to Medical program helps avoid the potential cost of replacing drugs that have not been handled or stored correctly. Moving these drugs to the medical benefit means the health care provider will obtain and store the medication rather than members picking it up at a pharmacy, storing it and then bringing it to the provider's office for administration.

How it impacts your employees

The Medical to Pharmacy program includes drugs that don't need to be given by a health care provider, so members will need to give these drugs to themselves. By getting their drugs from a specialty pharmacy, they can talk to pharmacists and support staff who specialize in these drugs. This will increase the chances they'll take the drugs the way they're supposed to and help them avoid drug interactions and side effects.

Drugs in the Pharmacy to Medical program need to be given by a health care provider; your employees cannot give these drugs to themselves. In the past, employees may have picked up the drug at a pharmacy and brought it to their doctor to administer. Covering these drugs under the medical benefit makes it easier for members because the drug and the service are now provided at the doctor's office.

Some of your employees may be affected by this new specialty drug coverage criteria. So to ensure your employees have a smooth transition, we'll send them a letter explaining the ins and outs of the Right Drug Right Channel programs, and also include a phone number to call if they have questions.

Why is this change important?

Covering specialty drugs under the right benefit helps ensure better management and may help lower drug administration costs. Want to know more about how the Right Drug Right Channel programs can help your company? Contact your broker or Sales representative.