

SPECIALTY PHARMACY: CREDENTIALING & ACCREDITATION



What Is a Specialty Pharmacy?

- ➔ Manages drug regimens — often for injectable or infusible drugs needing special handling — for those with complex, chronic diseases or rare medical conditions.
- ➔ Employs clinicians who educate patients on proper drug use (including injections) and manage side effects.
- ➔ Distribution of drugs for rare conditions to select pharmacies ensures their optimal use and is more efficient for manufacturers

Pharmacy Credentialing

- ➔ Credentialing is the process by which an organization obtains, verifies, and assesses a pharmacy's basic qualifications to provide patient care.
- ➔ PBMs and health plans typically require evidence of:
 - State licensure
 - Current federal DEA license
 - Current pharmacy malpractice insurance
 - Description of pharmacy services, hours and types of drugs regularly stocked
 - Photos with a GPS location to prove the pharmacy is legitimate
 - Electronic claim processing and e-prescribing capacity
- ➔ PBMs and health plans may have internal credentialing programs or may rely on third parties.

Specialty Pharmacy Accreditation

- ➔ **Accreditation** from a national body such as URAC or ACHC **demonstrates high standards of best practices**, including for patient care, proper drug handling and distribution, and home delivery of medications.
- ➔ **Accreditation assesses best practices** for:
 - Use of evidence-based practices and clinical decision support programs
 - Patient counseling and benefits coordination
 - Patient outcomes and quality of care
 - Many other clinical and patient care factors
- ➔ Accreditation is essential for demonstrating high expertise in caring for patients.
- ➔ Accreditation enables insurers to trust that accredited pharmacies are well qualified to care for these unique patients.