

Specialty Pharmacies:

Provide medications for patients with complex and chronic health conditions, including cancer.

THESE DRUGS REQUIRE:



Extra care to dispense safely



Special handling or compounding

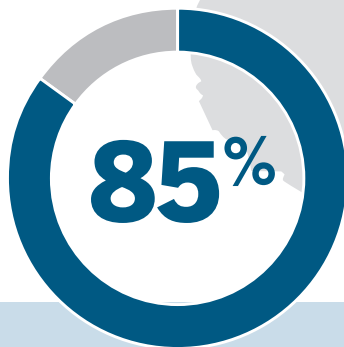


Careful patient monitoring

IN 2020:

CVS Caremark, Express Scripts & OptumRx

processed **85%** of all prescription claims and handled drug benefits for more than **266 million Americans**.



266 Million Americans

(Royce, Trevor J., et al., 2020)

SPECIALTY PHARMACIES CAN:



HELP coordinate proper administration of medications



CONSULT with patients and their caregivers



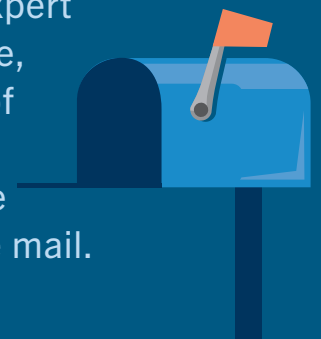
ENSURE insurance requirements for coverage are met.

When health plans require that patients use specific specialty pharmacies, it limits their choice as consumers.

Plus, critics question whether the tight network of specialty pharmacies, drug manufacturers, PBMs and insurers puts profits above patients.



Further, while some specialty pharmacies offer expert personalized service, a growing number of insurer-designated pharmacies operate entirely through the mail.



Not all specialty pharmacies offer the same level of patient support.

While some specialty pharmacies increase access to treatment, others serve as an extension of insurers' restrictive utilization management practices. When drug manufacturers limit which pharmacies carry their specialty products, patients and their clinicians may need to coordinate with multiple pharmacies to fill their prescriptions.

EMPLOYERS CAN address this by selecting or designing health plans that **open pharmacy options for consumers and patients.**

