



A smarter way to control specialty drug costs

Leverage the inherent strengths of your Optum Rx plan with Specialty Standards

Most likely, anyone reading this knows at least one thing about specialty medications: They are **very** expensive, and getting more so every day. And the cost of specialty medications will continue to rise, as more specialty medications come to market.

Here are just a few examples of the dynamic cost changes in the specialty class:

Since 2017, total inflation-adjusted **spending on specialty drugs grew 40%**. Over that same period, spending for traditional drugs increased only **1.9%**.¹

U.S. drug spend has shifted to orphan drugs over the past 20 years.³ Prices for **orphan drugs at launch are now more than 1,600% higher** than for non-orphans.⁴



There are **~160 medications costing more than \$250,000 per year**.²

250 new therapies expected by 2028. Many will be specialty. They will add more than \$100 billion in new drug spending.⁵

The search for solutions

With no end to rising costs in sight, employers and other plan sponsors are increasingly concerned. A recent survey from the Midwest Business Group on Health found that **89% of respondents believe specialty drug spending is becoming a “top threat” to employer-provided benefits.**⁶

But help is here. Optum Rx has developed a program that modernizes the benefit design as it relates to specialty medications, creating a sustainable solution that can evolve. The **Specialty Standards program** not only generates immediate cost savings for plans – but offers a sustainable and aggressive strategy that is forward-thinking and unique.

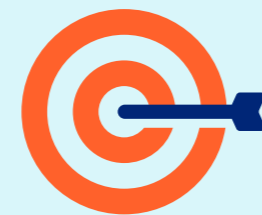


Specialty Standards

The Optum Rx® Specialty Standards program is a comprehensive strategy that focuses on high-cost medications and treatments – including rare orphan drugs. It provides clients a customized specialty management approach with strategic solutions to reduce costs and integrated benefit strategies:



Expanded clinical reviews
for increased rigor in
approving the use of complex
specialty medications.



New precision system edits
customize specialty refills to
ensure that the right dosages
are dispensed to reduce waste.



**A new specialty tiering
design** rewards members for
using preferred, lower-cost
medications, coupled with
proactive member support.

These enhancements reduce costs now, and pave the way for future benefit strategies that may evolve to reduce costs. Specialty Standards operates **within the benefit**, ensuring members a seamless experience – without the chaos and confusion of carve-out schemes.

Flexibility comes standard

Because Specialty Standards is embedded into the pharmacy benefit, each of the supporting components works in concert with existing clinical and copay card programs.

For example, there are core benefit strategies that many clients already offer. Then, the suite of Specialty Standard components adds additional key capabilities, which can be coupled with additional programs for even more savings:

Core benefit strategies

- Dispense as written (DAW) 1 and 2
- Premium formulary
- Optum-exclusive specialty

Specialty Standards capabilities

- Utilization management optimization
- Specialty expert review
- Oversupply stockpiling edit
- Split Fill
- Dose optimization
- **Optional:** \$0 Specialty Generics Tier

Complementary specialty benefit programs

- Copay card solutions
- Review My Care
- Polypharmacy Value Management
- Critical Drug Affordability



The Specialty Standards program saves clients **at least \$3,250 per intervened member per month** through dispensing optimization for drugs such as Cosentyx[®] (secukinumab).⁸

Packaging these state-of-the-art benefit management tools together helps clients maximize the value-enhancing features of their plan. **Together, these tools unlock potential savings of \$1.50 per member per month, backed up by a 3:1 ROI guarantee.**⁷

Action plan

The bottom line is that your employees and your organization deserve innovative clinical solutions. Specialty Standards can reduce specialty spending and increase clinical rigor – without compromising your benefit finances or quality of care.

Find out more about Specialty Standards from your consultant or Optum Rx representative.

Stay informed on [pharmacy trends, industry news and Optum Rx innovations](#).

Visit optum.com/optumrx.

About Optum Rx

Optum Rx is a pharmacy care services company helping clients and more than 60 million members achieve better health outcomes and lower overall costs through innovative prescription drug benefits services.

References

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