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# Biologic Medication and Specialty Pharmacies

## A Patient's Guide

**Getting the right care is critical to a patient's health.** But unlike traditional medications, biologics—innovative treatments made from natural and living sources designed to treat various health conditions—can be more challenging to access.

Biologics can either be injected or infused. Sometimes they are self-administered by patients in their home, but in many cases they are dispensed through specialty pharmacies.

Understanding how to navigate specialty pharmacies can help reduce the uncertainty of starting a biologic, giving patients greater confidence and control over their health.

### What are specialty pharmacies?

Specialty pharmacies focus on providing medication designed to treat complex disease states.<sup>1</sup> Since these treatments are used by fewer people, local pharmacies may not keep them in stock.

Medications supplied by specialty pharmacies may also require:<sup>2</sup>



**Special handling and temperature-controlled storage**



**Unique dosage and delivery method**



**Follow-up or oversight from a health care professional**

## Why are biologics often dispensed through specialty pharmacies?

Specialty pharmacies offer additional support to patients. They often help patients understand the correct administration of a biologic and collaborate directly with providers to establish a treatment plan.<sup>2</sup>

Specialty pharmacies are often well-equipped to handle special medications like biologics. Patients should work with their health care provider to determine the best option for receiving their medication.

**Understanding how specialty pharmacies work** empowers patients to proactively manage their care.

## Will insurance cover my biologic?

It's important to work with your clinician to find the right treatment for you.

If you have challenges with insurance coverage, financial assistance programs may be available to help cover costs.<sup>2</sup>



### Sources:

1. Specialty Pharmacy. American Pharmacists Association. Accessed February 26, 2025. <https://www.pharmacist.com/Practice/Patient-Care-Services/Specialty>
2. What's So Special About Specialty Pharmacy? Patient Advocacy Foundation. Accessed February 26, 2025. <https://education.patientadvocate.org/resource/whats-so-special-about-specialty-pharmacy-a-users-guide-to-specialty-pharmacies/>



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