

## Specialty Pharmacy under the Medical Benefit: Frequently Asked Questions

Addendum: Site of Care, Preferred Product and Sourcing Expansion

### SITE OF CARE

#### 1. What is Site of Care?

To help reduce the total cost of care, we review the site where certain specialty medications will be administered to determine if the location is medically necessary.

Under the medical benefit, certain specialty medications may not need to be monitored at an outpatient hospital level. For those medications, we require you to use an alternative site of care. By changing to an alternative location, providers can help our members receive effective and convenient care, while also lowering costs.

In some cases, we suggest at-home treatment, which can improve a patient's physical and mental well-being and reduce disruption of work and family responsibilities without increasing the likelihood of adverse drug events or side effects.

#### 2. How does Site of Care work?

During the prior authorization process, we review the clinical evidence submitted by the physician and consider the member's specific condition.

If, after reviewing the clinical data and medical necessity criteria, we determine that the patient's medication doesn't need to be monitored in an outpatient hospital setting, we'll require the provider to change to a different site of care for the medication to be covered. The new site of care will be a participating infusion provider (home infusions), physician office or freestanding infusion center, instead of a higher-cost location, such as an outpatient facility.

Not every member will meet the criteria to shift site of care. We'll only require a different site of care if we determine it's clinically appropriate.

We'll give members a grace period, so they can access their medication during the transition. We'll also help to coordinate the transition to a new site of care with the provider and member.

#### 3. What if the patient wants to continue to receive services at an outpatient facility?

Some patients may prefer to have their service performed in an outpatient hospital. If this happens, you'll need to submit a new prior authorization request to review the medical necessity of the outpatient hospital site of care. You can find the site of care policies at [UHCprovider.com](https://www.uhcprovider.com) > Policies and Protocols > Commercial Policies > Medical & Drug Policies and Coverage Determination Guidelines.

Once there, search for the following policies:

- For Immune Globulin: Immune Globulin – Site of Care – Commercial Utilization Review Guideline.
- For all other non-oncology medical specialty drugs: Provider Administered Drugs – Site of Care – Commercial Utilization Review Guideline.

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### PREFERRED PRODUCT

#### 1. What is a preferred product?

For certain specialty medications, we require you to prescribe a lower-cost specialty medication before we'll provide coverage for a clinically similar, higher-cost medication. The initial lower-cost specialty medication is known as the "preferred product."

As part of our preferred product strategies, we may also require you to prescribe clinically appropriate, lower-cost, self-administered medications available through the pharmacy benefit before we'll cover infused or provider-administered medications administered through the medical benefit.

Our preferred product strategies are driven by our Prior Authorization/Medical Necessity programs.

#### 2. Which drugs require providers to prescribe a preferred product?

You can find the preferred product strategies by searching on the individual drug policies at **UHCprovider.com** > Policies and Protocols > Commercial Policies > Medical & Drug Policies and Coverage Determination Guidelines. You can also find additional program requirements at **UHCprovider.com** > Resource Library > Drug Lists and Pharmacy > Specialty Medical Injectable Drug Programs.

### MEDICATION SOURCING

#### 1. What is medication sourcing?

Medication sourcing, otherwise known as "white bagging," is a phrase used when an infusion provider (physician or facility) receives a specialty medication from an outside specialty pharmacy and the patient visits the physician's office or infusion facility for administration.

#### 2. What is medication sourcing expansion?

We require hospitals to acquire certain specialty drugs from select specialty pharmacies when these drugs are dispensed in an outpatient setting, unless otherwise authorized by UnitedHealthcare.

This change is an expansion of an existing requirement for certain commercial plans outlined in the *Requirement to Use a Participating Specialty Pharmacy Provider for Certain Medications* in the UnitedHealthcare Care Provider Administrative Guide.



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### 3. How does medication sourcing work?

When the specialty drug is obtained through the select specialty pharmacy, the specialty pharmacy will bill UnitedHealthcare directly for the drug under the member's medical benefit.

- Providers can only seek reimbursement from UnitedHealthcare for administration of the drug and not for the drug itself.
- Providers can't seek any reimbursement from the member for the drug.

For more information on various specialty medical injectable drug programs and requirements, visit the Specialty Medical Injectable Drug Program webpage at [UHCprovider.com](https://www.uhcprovider.com).

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