Customer Information

Specialty Pharmacy Program

Exceptional value  Convenience  Coordinated care

Aurora Pharmacy®
Our mission

Advocate Aurora Health has a vision for health care: To provide patients with better health care than they can get anywhere else.

Our Specialty Pharmacy mission is closely related: To help our patients with complex, chronic diseases by providing them with the full range of specialty pharmacy services in the quickest manner, at the lowest possible cost.

How to contact us

Our Pharmacy hours are Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturdays 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Calling us directly toll free 844-820-5600 is the best way to reach our pharmacy team during business hours.

Use this number to contact us with any questions. Questions may include order status, copays, claims-related issues, our ability to serve your insurance.

We have phone service for questions outside of business hours. You may call our toll-free number anytime if you need to speak with a pharmacist.

Non-urgent questions or concerns can also be sent to us anytime by email through SpecialtyPharmacy@aaah.org. Your email message will be responded to during business hours.

Visit us on the web at AuroraPharmacy.org.

Our fax number is 262-253-3098.

Scope of services

Our licensed team includes:
• Registered pharmacists

Our expert team includes:
• Certified pharmacy technicians
• Billing specialists

Our Specialty Pharmacy Program provides patients and clients with:

Specialty Pharmacy Care
• Medication Dispensing. Our pharmacy will fill each prescription as written by your doctor. We will ship the drug to you either by mail or by overnight courier. We do not charge you for shipping.

In most cases, if a generic drug is available and the doctor allows it, we will dispense an approved generic drug equal to the brand drug. But you need to know that for many specialty drugs, there are no equal generics.

• Medication Counseling. When people start a new drug, they have questions. Our pharmacy team fully explains each new drug to patients and takes time to answer questions. We explain how to use the drug and what to expect – the helpful effects and the side effects.

• Therapy Management. We give a high level of care to patients using complex drug treatments. Our patients who use specialty drugs are at risk for side effects and other complications of treatment. Our pharmacy team will work closely with you and your doctor’s team to make sure you get the best results from your drug.

• Supplies. We provide you with supplies you need for your drugs at no added cost. We will supply a disposal container if you need one for injection drugs.

Financial services

• Billing. Our staff will process billing with your insurances. You are responsible for any remaining copay for your drug. We can bill your credit card for your copays.
**Financial Assistance.** Our financial team members are experts in checking and getting coverage for your drugs and finding help for high out-of-pocket costs. We'll work with you to find you whatever help you qualify for.

Aurora Specialty Pharmacy was designed to meet the needs of Advocate Aurora Health patients. Our service area includes Wisconsin, Illinois and other states where we are licensed.

**What is a Specialty Pharmacy?**
Specialty pharmacies make it easier for patients to get the desired results from high cost, complex drugs that treat serious illness. Clinical pharmacists guide patients throughout their treatment. They work with patients to reduce side effects, ensure safety, and achieve the best possible results.

Specialty pharmacists help you, the patient, become an important member of your care team. This team also includes your doctors, family members and caregivers. It may also include nursing services and other providers (mental health, nutrition, etc.)

Patient training and education is the key of the specialty pharmacy. A well-informed patient (or caregiver) is better prepared to be a partner in his or her own care plan. Education helps patients deal with difficult side-effects, improve communication, and get results.

**Patient Rights and Responsibilities**

As a patient of the Aurora Specialty Pharmacy program, you have certain rights and responsibilities.

**You have the right to:**

1. Get prescribed products and services in a professional manner without discrimination relative to your sex, race, religion, ethnic group, sexual preference, or physical and/or mental disability.

2. Request and get information about the Aurora Specialty Pharmacy Patient Management Program.

3. Be treated in a fair and courteous way by every person representing Aurora Specialty Pharmacy.

   You have the right to be identified by name and job title for any caregiver of Aurora Specialty Pharmacy providing services to you.

4. Get educational services and information needed to use drugs in the manner intended by your doctor.

5. Express concerns or grievances without fear of reprisal and have concerns or grievances properly investigated.

6. Request to speak with caregivers’ supervisors if necessary.

7. Have your personal health information shared only as allowed by state and federal law and to be informed of our procedures for disclosure of clinical records. Confidentiality of health care information is strictly maintained.

8. Get information in a timely fashion about any changes or discontinuation of the Patient Management Program.

9. Be informed of any limitation of Aurora Specialty Pharmacy services and get referrals to appropriate doctors when needed.

10. Decline participation or discharge from any Aurora Specialty Pharmacy program at any point in time.
You have the responsibility to:
1. Participate in the development of an effective plan of care. In doing so, you have responsibility to provide, to the best of your knowledge, accurate and complete medical and personal information.

2. Adhere to the plan of treatment prescribed by your doctor.

3. Ask questions about your care.

4. Communicate any information, concerns and/or questions related to changes in your condition to Aurora Specialty Pharmacy caregivers and your doctor’s care team.

5. Notify Aurora Specialty Pharmacy if you are going to be unavailable for scheduled delivery times.

6. Treat Aurora Specialty Pharmacy staff with respect and dignity without discrimination as to color, religion, sex, or national or ethnic origin.

7. Care for, and safely use drugs, supplies and/or equipment, according to instructions provided, for the purpose they were prescribed and only for/on the individual for whom they were prescribed.

8. Contact us right away by phone if you suspect any errors or have concerns with prescriptions you get from Aurora Specialty Pharmacy.

9. Pay all copays, coinsurances and invoices upon receipt.

10. Submit any forms needed for you to get services.

11. Notify Aurora Specialty Pharmacy of any changes in your insurance coverage. Inform us right away of any address or telephone changes.

How to use our services
Prescriptions for specialty drugs can be complex. We want to make it as simple as possible for you to get started on your specialty drug. So, let us take care of the details.

Your prescription
We will fill your prescription with drug just as the doctor orders it. Most specialty drugs aren’t available in as a generic. When a generic is available, we’ll follow all state and federal laws that may require a generic substitute to be used. We will inform you when we provide a generic.

When we get your prescription, we’ll make sure it’s covered by your insurance. In some cases, the drug your doctor orders may not be available to us. In that case, we will find a pharmacy that can dispense that drug, and we will transfer your prescription to that pharmacy. We will notify you when this happens.

If your drug is not available for any other reason, we will call you and help transfer the prescription to a pharmacy that can supply the drug. Your health is most important to us. We will work with you to make sure you always have the drug you need.

Refilling your drug
We will call you about seven days before your drug runs out to get your next refill ready. We’ll ask how the drug is working for you, make sure side effects are in check, and, if needed, we’ll talk with your doctor. If at any time you need to check on the status of your prescription, you can call us.

Keep in mind, it might take 3-5 days to ship your refill drug. If for any reason there will be a delay, we will call you. If needed, we’ll arrange for you to get your drug from another pharmacy.
Emergency access to medication

Travel – We will make every effort to give you any added drug you may need in advance of travel plans. Please notify us at least 10 days in advance of any planned travel. We will communicate with your insurer so that we can get any needed approvals to allow travel supplies.

Disasters – In the event of a natural disaster (flood, tornado, etc.) please contact us as soon as possible. We will work to make sure you get a supply of drug shipped to the place you want. If needed, we’ll help in transferring your prescription to a place convenient for you.

Transferring your prescription – If you want to have your prescription dispensed by a different pharmacy for any reason, we will help transfer the prescription information to your new pharmacy. Kindly ask the new pharmacy to contact us by phone and we’ll transfer the prescription.

Lost and stolen drugs – Please take good care of your drugs. In the event of lost, stolen or damaged drugs, we will be happy to replace the drugs, but you may be responsible for any additional costs. Many insurance companies will not pay for replacement drug in these cases.

Patient education services

People who know more about their conditions and the drugs used to treat those conditions often get better results. Our goal is to give our patients with the educational materials they need to become active and successful participants in their care. We do that by providing information in a variety of ways, so patients can use the format they prefer.

When you enroll in the Specialty Pharmacy program, we’ll begin by working with you to learn your specific needs. We’ll provide you with information from written and online sources. And our pharmacy staff will always be available to help answer your questions or connect you with other sources of trusted information.

Education programs work better if there is good two-way communication. So that you can get the best benefits from your treatments, please be sure to notify us of any changes to your condition or drug treatments.

Advocate Aurora Health provides medical interpreters who can help you talk with your doctor or health care providers in your own language and other communication aids to help you and your family members with your visit. We provide this service at no cost to you. Please let us know if you require language help.

If you have questions or concerns about information got from us, or from other sources, feel free to contact us.

You can reach your specialty pharmacy team toll-free 844-820-5600.

Helpful patient resources

Many people like to learn more about their drug or their medical condition. Your local library is a good place to find information on medical conditions. There are websites and patient programs available from the makers of most drugs. Contact us and we can help get you enrolled in a manufacturer support program.

In addition, these websites may be helpful for many patients:

• National Library of Medicine: nlm.nih.gov
• Advocate Aurora Health: AdvocateAuroraHealth.org
• Drug Information Online: drugs.com
• Aurora Specialty Pharmacy: AuroraPharmacy.org
Patient safety

Drug recalls – We carefully follow all drug recalls. In the rare event that a drug that we dispensed to you is recalled by the manufacturer, we will contact you directly by phone and give you instructions to get a replacement drug. You will not be charged for any drug to replace a recalled product.

Safe disposal of drugs – If you no longer need a drug, there are safe ways to dispose of it. Follow specific disposal instructions on the drug label or patient information that goes with the drug. Make use of drug take-back programs in your community that allow the public to bring unused drugs to a central site for proper disposal.

Call your city or county government’s household trash and recycling service (see blue pages in the phone book) to see if a take-back program is available in your community.

If in doubt about proper disposal, talk to one of our pharmacists.

What to do if you have a drug reaction – Drugs can treat or prevent illness and disease. However, sometimes drugs can cause problems. These problems are called adverse drug reactions. You should know what to do if you think that you or someone you take care of is having an adverse drug reaction. At the start of your treatment, we’ll tell you about common adverse reactions, so you know what to expect and how to respond if reactions occur. If you have any questions about something unexpected, please contact your doctor or give us a call. If you have any serious problem, such as difficulty breathing, bleeding, severe nausea and vomiting, get care from a doctor right away.

Reporting drug errors – We strive to be fully accurate when dispensing drugs to our patients. If you ever believe that something isn’t right with your prescription, or if the prescription information didn’t match what your doctor or pharmacist told you, contact us right away by phone. We'll check everything and make sure you get the drug just as your doctor ordered.

We take quality seriously. We will record and report any drug error through our continuous quality program. We will take steps to correct any processes that could lead to error so that we can prevent any future errors of a similar manner.

Reporting service complaints – Our goal is to give each and every patient service that is perfect in every way. If you have any reason to submit a complaint about our service, please call Advocate Aurora Health’s toll free pharmacy customer care line at 888-973-8999. Speak with someone 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday or leave a message 24/7 and we’ll respond the next business day.

Our Pharmacy is licensed in Wisconsin. Complaints or grievances about our service may be directed online to the Wisconsin Pharmacy Examining Board at dspb.wi.gov.

Our Pharmacy is accredited by ACHC. Complaints or grievances about our service may be directed to ACHC at ACHC.org or 855-937-2242.

Our Pharmacy is accredited by URAC. Complaints or grievances about our service may be directed online to URAC at URAC.org or 202-326-3942.

Medication safety at home

Drugs can help you feel better or control a medical condition. If you take them in the wrong way, they can make you feel worse. If you take drugs prescribed by your doctor, or if you buy drugs “over the counter,” follow these rules:

• Store all drugs that need to be kept cold in the fridge, in an area away from anything else.

• Store all drugs that should be stored at room temperature in a clean, dry area, out of children’s reach.

• Read the label with care.
• Take the drug just as your doctor tells you.

• Bring a list of drugs that you are using every time you visit the doctor.

• Ask your doctor to help you make a schedule, so you know what drugs to take at what time of day.

• If possible, use only one pharmacy for all your drugs. The pharmacist can help you keep track of what drugs you are taking.

• Make sure your caregiver(s) know what drugs you take and when you take them.

• **Do not** combine prescription and over-the-counter drugs or nutrition supplements unless your doctor approves it.

• **Do not** take the drug or change how much of the drug you take or how often you take it without first talking to your doctor.

• **Do not** take someone else’s drugs.

**What you should know about each drug you take**

• Name (generic and brand name)
• Reason for taking it
• How much to take
• How often to take it
• How long to take it
• Possible side effects and what to do if you experience them
• Special instructions
  (take with meals, at bedtime, etc.)

*Ask questions! Talk with your doctor or pharmacist if there is any thing you do not understand about your drug.*