



# Analysis shows that integrated specialty pharmacy model is associated with lower total cost of care<sup>1</sup>

Shields Health Solutions (SHS) recently partnered with Optum Advisory Services to evaluate the impact of the SHS specialty pharmacy model on total costs of care for Medicare Advantage patients.



## HYPOTHESIS

SHS's integrated specialty pharmacy (SP) model reduces total health care costs measured on a per member per month (PMPM) basis.

## METHODOLOGY

Optum proprietary de-identified Normative Health Information claims database was used to identify patients enrolled in Medicare Advantage and pharmacy insurance coverage in 2018 and 2019. To be included in the data set, patients had to fill at least one self-administered specialty prescription in 2018. Patients were assigned to groups (as seen in the table to the right.) Total health care costs (including medical and pharmacy spending) were then compared. The authors used Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Hierarchical Condition Categories risk scores to adjust for differences in disease states, comorbidities, and demographic factors between patient groups.

## RESULTS

In 2019, risk-adjusted PMPM costs were 13% lower for the intervention group as compared to the control group (\$7,061 vs. \$8,149 respectively). Patients whose specialty prescriber participated in the SHS care model but did not fill their prescription at an SHS-affiliated pharmacy had 6% lower risk-adjusted PMPM costs (\$7,683 vs. \$8,149 respectively).

— Increasing participation in integrated SP model —>

	Control group	Provider integrated group <sup>2</sup>	Fully integrated pharmacy care model group
Filled Rx at SHS-affiliated SP	No	No	Yes
Specialty prescriber participated in SHS model	No	Yes	Yes
Risk-adjusted PMPM costs in 2019	\$8,149	\$7,683	\$7,061

1. Hellems S, Davidson J, Fasching D, Smith B. Association of Use of the Integrated Specialty Pharmacy Model on Total Cost of Care. Journal of Managed Care & Specialty Pharmacy. 2021;27(4-a):U14.  
 2. Patients in this group were seen by the same group of prescribers as patients in the integrated group. These patients received the initial benefits investigation, prior authorization support, and financial assistance from the integrated SP, but they did not receive pharmacy care beyond therapy initiation.



lower risk-adjusted PMPM costs for the intervention group compared to the control group

Data from 2019; \$7,061 vs. \$8,149 respectively.

