Walgreens Acquires Medmark Specialty Pharmacy Solutions and C&M Pharmacy

Walgreen Co. recently acquired Medmark Specialty Pharmacy Solutions and C&M Pharmacy.

With its recent acquisition by Walgreens, Pittsburgh-based Medmark Specialty Pharmacy Solutions will now operate as Medmark, A Walgreens Specialty Pharmacy. Medmark, a full-service, national specialty pharmacy company, provides pharmacy care (including injectables, infusibles, and advanced oral medications) to patients with unique or chronic medication needs for conditions such as cancer, hemophilia, hepatitis, HIV, infertility, multiple sclerosis, and organ transplants.

BlueCross BlueShield of both Oklahoma and New Mexico recently selected Medmark as their exclusive Synagis® provider. Also, Medmark is one of two pharmacies providing Synagis to BlueCross BlueShield of Illinois. (Synagis is used to combat respiratory syncytial virus in high-risk babies and children.)

Medmark will remain headquartered in Pittsburgh serving as a growth platform for Walgreens national expansion in specialty pharmacy.

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Walgreens recent acquisition of C&M Pharmacy, LLC, a Chicago-based specialty pharmacy, extends its ability to serve patients and their medical teams with specialized pharmacy needs. Since 1996, C&M has served patients with HIV/AIDS, hepatitis C, and behavioral health conditions. C&M provides nutritional therapies, wound care, and IV infusion therapies.

C&M employees have a unique approach to reach patients: They go directly to their residence or workplace and provide them with medications and educational materials.

Walgreens offers specialized services to C&M patients through Walgreens Home Care and Walgreens Specialty Pharmacy, including comprehensive education for specific diseases, injection administration, home respiratory and infusion therapies, and medical equipment. C&M Pharmacy will operate as C&M, A Walgreens Specialty Pharmacy.

“By combining with established, well-respected leaders in specialty pharmacy we’ll expand our abilities to serve our managed care clients and their members,” says Greg Wasson, executive vice president of Walgreen Co. and president of the Walgreens Health Services division.

New HIV Drug (Atripla)

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently approved Atripla™ Tablets, a fixed-dose combination of three widely-used antiretroviral drugs in a single tablet taken once a day, alone, or in combination with other antiretroviral products for the treatment of HIV-1 infection in adults.

Atripla is the first one-pill, once-a-day product to treat HIV/AIDS. It combines the active ingredients of Sustiva® (efavirenz), Emtriva® (emtricitabine), and Viread® (tenofovir disoproxil fumarate). A joint venture between Bristol-Myers Squibb and Gilead Sciences was formed to commercialize Atripla in the United States. This is the first such collaboration in the field of HIV/AIDS. In certain territories, Merck holds the rights to efavirenz. The three companies will work together to ensure the product is available to patients and physicians. Atripla will be available for use in the United States as a new product approved under a new drug application (NDA). This will allow the drug to be considered for purchase for use in 15 other countries included under the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). HIV-1 affects people worldwide.

The FDA approved Sustiva in 1998, Viread in 2001, and Emtriva in 2003. The safety and effectiveness of the combination of these three drugs were shown in a 48-week clinical study with 244 HIV-1 infected adults receiving the drugs contained in Atripla. In this trial, 80 percent of the participants achieved a marked reduction of the human immunodeficiency virus and a substantial increase in the number of healthy CD4 cells—cells that fight against infection.
Walgreens Opens In-store Health Corner Clinics™ in Select Cities

Walgreens opened 19 Health Corner Clinics in Missouri this summer; 10 in Kansas City, and nine in St. Louis. The clinics, adjacent to the stores’ pharmacy departments, offer patients diagnosis and treatment of routine medical conditions, as well as diagnostic screenings and vaccinations.

Walgreens will open in-store Health Corner Clinics™ in select Atlanta, Chicago, and Las Vegas stores this year. Each market will open more than a dozen clinics.

To operate the clinics, Walgreens has collaborated with InterFit Health (RediClinic) in Atlanta, Take Care Health in Chicago, Kansas City, and St. Louis, and Pinnacle EasyCare in Las Vegas.

“These clinics can improve health care delivery by making it more convenient and affordable for patients with common ailments,” said Don Huonker, Walgreens vice president of pharmacy services. “The services offered at a Health Corner Clinic will complement care provided by the patient’s primary care physician. Our goal is to work with the physician so that they are aware of all of the patient’s treatment and can properly coordinate care.”

The clinics fully support the eight principles recommended by the American Medical Association to ensure that high-quality care is provided at in-store health clinics nationwide. In addition, they follow the guidelines outlined by the American Academy of Family Physicians for clinical quality. They also collaborate with local physician groups or hospital systems that regularly review patient health charts and perform site visits in accordance with state regulations to ensure that patients receive high-quality, professional care.

Each Health Corner Clinic is staffed by certified nurse practitioners available seven days a week. No appointment is necessary. Patients as young as 18 to 24 months (depending on the clinic operator) can be treated for common family ailments including strep throat, ear and sinus infections, seasonal allergies, and skin conditions. Screenings for diabetes and high blood pressure, and vaccinations for flu, hepatitis B, meningitis, tetanus, and diphtheria are also available.

Most clinics work with commercial and government health insurance plans offering services for insured patients, usually at the same price as their office visit copay. For uninsured patients, services are priced below what is typically charged today in an emergency room or physician’s office.

A team-based approach with local medical providers is endorsed by each of the clinic operators in order to coordinate patient care. If a patient’s condition falls outside of the clinic’s scope, the nurse practitioner will refer the patient back to his or her primary care physician or help locate a doctor if he or she doesn’t have one. In addition, the clinics collaborate with these local physician groups to regularly review patient healthcare records and serve as a quality check and referral system for the nurse practitioners staffing the clinics.
We Speak Your Language

Walgreens appreciates the fact that English is not the primary language of many people who live in America. Because it is important for all patients to understand their personal healthcare information, Walgreens offers the following value-added services to assist and support our patients in their native languages:

- **Prescription Vial Label Directions in 14 Languages**
  The importance of understanding what one's prescription is and knowing how and when to take it can not be overemphasized. So that patients clearly and thoroughly understand their prescriptions, all Walgreens retail pharmacies offer prescription vial label directions in 14 languages. Those languages include: English, Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese. Walgreens Mail Service Pharmacy can print prescription label instructions in both English and Spanish.

- **Dial-a-Pharmacist**
  Should one of our patients find that no one at their local Walgreens pharmacy counter speaks their preferred language, we will locate a licensed Walgreens pharmacist who does and connect the pharmacist and the patient by phone.* Walgreens has licensed pharmacists available who can converse with patients in the 14 different languages noted above. They're happy to assist non-English speaking patients, answer their questions, and provide them with the information that they need.

- **Over-the-Phone Language Interpretation**
  Patients can have their questions answered at Walgreens Customer Care Center where representatives and pharmacists work directly with language interpreters who can assist limited or non-English-speaking customers over the phone. Professionally trained interpreters can provide accurate and complete interpretation for any of 150 languages, regardless of country of origin or level of education of the speaker.

- **WalgreensEspañol.com**
  Walgreens is the first national pharmacy to launch a web site designed specifically for Spanish-speaking customers. WalgreensEspañol.com provides drug information, prescription refill services, a health encyclopedia, a diabetes resource center, a pregnancy resource center, a store locator, and directions on how to use some of the services on Walgreens.com.

* Service based on availability of multilingual pharmacists
Walgreens Sponsors Gay Games VII

The city of Chicago hosted the Gay Games VII Sports and Cultural Festival July 15 to 22, 2006, and having donated $100,000 to the event, Walgreens was one of three “Global Sponsors.”

The Gay Games, an international, quadrennial event, brought more than 12,000 athletes from more than 100 countries to compete in 30 different sports at venues throughout the Chicagoland area. In addition to the athletic competitions, the festival included band, cheerleading, choral and color guard performances, an ancillary arts festival, and a series of social events and parties.

As the official HIV/AIDS Prevention sponsor of the Games, Walgreens provided and staffed 12 first-aid tents at various sporting venues, donated $10,000 worth of medical supplies, and provided and staffed six kiosks that offered health and wellness information. In addition, the Walgreens Wellness Tour appeared at various locations and provided visitors with health and wellness information, and sundry samples.

A Vendor Expo was held at the Hilton Chicago Hotel where, in conjunction with Chicago’s Howard Brown Clinic, Walgreens Specialty Pharmacy highlighted the services we offer persons with HIV, and helped coordinate free testing for both athletes and visitors.

Glen Pietrandoni, R.Ph., manager of HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis Programs for Walgreen Co., commenting on Walgreens exposure at the Games’ numerous events and locations said, “We reached out to people who use our services, and introduced ourselves to others who may not be aware of all that we offer. Their responses were generally positive, and from our perspective, our presence at the Gay Games was successful.” Pietrandoni finds this reflected in comments offered by survey respondents.

“Walgreens community outreach is why I am so loyal to Walgreens.”

“[For] a company your size to embrace our community shows us that you are aware of our presence and you include us as a part of the consumer base you value.”

Gay Games VIII will be held in Summer 2010 in Cologne, Germany.
Community Involvement: Walgreens Recruits Employees with Disabilities with New, Highly Accessible Web Site

Walgreens has launched an innovative initiative to hire people with disabilities at its new distribution center in Anderson, S.C., and is recruiting through a new, specially-designed web site.

Walgreensoutreach.com describes jobs available at the Walgreens distribution center and is designed to be accessible by people with sensory, physical, and cognitive disabilities.

The center has begun pre-hire training and will open in 2007. Initially, Walgreens will hire more than 200 employees with plans to ramp up to more than 600 employees. Walgreens goal is to have at least one-third of the workforce consist of employees with a variety of disabilities working on a fully-integrated team. This “real work for real pay” environment will be competitive employment in which performance standards must be maintained. Job openings at the Anderson distribution center include a number of management positions.

Walgreensoutreach.com offers information to help potential employees understand what work will be like at the distribution center. The site incorporates audio messages, photos, video, and a large-print text option to depict jobs and worklife at Anderson. The site also is designed to be accessible to blind and low vision individuals who use screen reader technology.

For potential employees considering relocating to Anderson, the site also has information about Walgreens partnership with 13 local disability agencies. Knowing the difficult challenges faced by people with disabilities who want to work, Walgreens designed the web site to address concerns such as transportation, housing, and the impact of gainful employment on Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income, or Social Security Disability Income benefits.

“We know this requires more than a ‘build it and they will come’ attitude to be successful,” said Randy Lewis, Walgreens senior vice president of distribution and logistics. “Our local partners and statewide officials have worked tirelessly setting up a support network to make this outreach with the disability community a success.”

Larry Kraemer, human resources manager for the Anderson distribution center, said, “This is a workforce that is underemployed and has not had the same opportunities as others. This is a chance to change that.”


“The impact of this new Walgreens Web site is immeasurable,” said Paciello. “It will be embraced by the disability community as a critical tool in the employment process. TPG is proud to be a part of this forward-thinking Walgreens initiative.”
## Rx Drug Update
The Food and Drug Administration recently approved the following new medications:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drug Name</th>
<th>Company/Availability</th>
<th>Indication(s)</th>
<th>Dose Form(s)</th>
<th>Regimen</th>
<th>AWP as of October 2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Advair®** (fluticasone propionate; salmeterol) HFA inhaler | GlaxoSmithKline, Inc. Unknown | Maintenance treatment and prevention of asthma symptoms in patients age 12 and older | 45 mcg/21 mcg, 115 mcg/21 mcg, 230 mcg/21 mcg dry powder inhalation | One inhalation twice daily | Advair HFA 115/21 mcg inhalation = $16.27 per unit  
Advair HFA 230/21 mcg inhalation = $22.47 per unit |
| **Gardasil®** (quadrivalent human papillomavirus types 6, 11, 16, 18 recombinant vaccine) injection | Merck & Co., Inc. Currently available | Prevention of cervical cancer and other diseases related to the human papillomavirus (HPV) in females age 9 to 26 | 0.5 mL injection | Administered intramuscularly as three separate doses; second dose: two months after the first dose; third dose: six months after the first dose | $300 per dose |
| **Oracea™** (doxycycline, USP) capsules | CollaGenex Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Currently available | Treatment of inflammatory lesions, including pustules and papules, in adult patients with rosacea | 40 mg capsules | 40 mg once daily | $4.94 per dose |
| **Seasonique™** (levonorgestrel/ethinyl estradiol and ethinyl estradiol) tablets | Duramed Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Late 2006 | Extended-cycle oral contraceptive agent for the prevention of pregnancy | Levonorgestrel 0.15 mg, ethinyl estradiol 0.03 mg, and ethinyl estradiol 0.01 mg | One tablet once daily | $169.62 per 91-day supply |
| **Zelapar®** (selegiline HCl) orally disintegrating tablets | Valeant Pharmaceuticals International Unknown | To be used as adjunct therapy in patients being treated with levodopa/carbidopa for Parkinson’s disease | 1.25 mg tablets | 1.25 mg to 2.5 mg once daily 1.25 mg given once a day for at least six weeks; after six weeks, dose may be escalated to 2.5 mg once daily | $4.69 per 1.25 mg tablet, $9.38 per dose |
| **Zostavax®** (zoster vaccine live) injection | Merck & Co., Inc. Currently available | Prevention of shingles (herpes zoster) in people age 60 and older | 0.5 mL injection | Administered as a single dose subcutaneously (under the skin) | $190.63 per dose |

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**The Bug Stops Here**

*Flu and Pneumonia Shots Available at Walgreens*

With the cold and flu season soon upon us, Walgreens will once again offer flu and pneumonia vaccines at their nearly 5,500 locations nationwide.

*continued on p. 8*
About the Flu
The flu is a contagious infection of the nose, throat, and lungs caused by the influenza virus. It affects millions of people in the United States each year. Thousands require hospitalization, and approximately 36,000 people die each year from its complications.

About Pneumonia
Pneumonia is an inflammation of the lungs caused by an infection. Many different organisms can cause it, including bacteria, viruses, and fungi. It can range from mild to severe, and even be fatal. For some, particularly the elderly and those who are debilitated, bacterial pneumonia may follow influenza or even a common cold. Pneumonia affects millions of Americans each year.

Adults 18 years of age and older and adolescents age 13 to 17 years with a prescription can receive the flu vaccine. Anyone 18 years of age and older can receive the pneumonia vaccine.

You can obtain more information by calling 800-FLU-9950 or visiting walgreens.com/flu.

Mark Your Calendar
Use this list of health-related observances for November and December to help you plan activities, health fairs, and other events. For more information, log on to the sponsoring organization’s web site. For a complete observance list for the entire year, visit the web site for the National Health Information Center: http://www.healthfinder.gov/library/nho.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Observance</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Sponsor/Web Site</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National Hospice Month</td>
<td>All November</td>
<td><a href="http://www.nhpco.org">www.nhpco.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Foot Health Issues Related to Diabetes</td>
<td>All November</td>
<td><a href="http://www.apma.org">www.apma.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Awareness Month</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Family Caregivers Month</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.thefamilycaregiver.org">www.thefamilycaregiver.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>American Diabetes Month</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lung Cancer Awareness Month</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.lungcanceralliance.org">www.lungcanceralliance.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Great American Smokeout</td>
<td>November 16</td>
<td><a href="http://www.goldcopd.org">www.goldcopd.org</a></td>
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For information about Walgreens Health Services, call 866-728-5795 or e-mail rxservices@walgreens.com.

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