

INSURANCE NEWS

Benefits Briefs

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AmWINS Group Benefits will be helping self-insured employers handle employees who use expensive specialty drugs.

The drugs, which may treat common conditions, such as Hepatitis C, or rare conditions, such as severe combined immune deficiency, may cost anywhere from \$5,000 to \$300,000 per patient per year, according to AmWINS Group Benefits, Warwick, R.I., a unit of AmWINS Inc., Charlotte, N.C.

The new AmWINS Specialty Pharmacy Protection program will manage utilization, hold down the cost of medication and therapy administration, and take other steps to reduce plans' costs, AmWINS says.

AmWINS is offering the program in 38 states.

Banyan Administrators L.L.C. has been hired by the California Society of CPAs to run the CalCPA ProtectPlus health and welfare benefits program.

CalCPA, Redwood City, Calif., uses the program to offer firms major medical coverage and other products, such as dental insurance, vision insurance and long-term disability insurance, according to Banyan, Mechanicsburg, Pa.