Specialty Medication Implications

Specialty medications are high-cost prescription drugs used to treat chronic, often rare, conditions such as autoimmune diseases and multiple sclerosis.

**SPECIALTY MEDS ON THE RISE**

By 2020, specialty medications are expected to account for nearly half of total drug spending in the commercial market, doubling in under a decade.

**TOTAL SPENDING**

The percentage of total spending accounted for by specialty medications ranged from 19% for ulcerative colitis to 66% for multiple sclerosis.

**SHORT-TERM DISABILITY DAYS**

Our expectation was that use of specialty medications might increase productivity by reducing both absenteeism and short-term disability among workers with these treatable autoimmune disorders. Yet, we did not find strong evidence to support this.

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