



## NEWS RELEASE

### **Academy of Independent Pharmacy and Aureus Health Services Announce the Launch of a Specialty Pharmacy Management Program for Independent Retail Pharmacies**

*April 21, 2015: Atlanta, GA, and Pittsburgh, PA* The Academy of Independent Pharmacy (AIP), an influential advocate for pharmacy in the state of Georgia, and Aureus Health Services, a national Specialty Pharmacy and Health Services company and portfolio company of BelHealth Investment Partners, announced today its partnership for a Specialty Pharmacy Services program. Under the arrangement, Aureus will provide back-office Specialty Pharmacy Management services to AIP member pharmacies to support the needs of their growing population of specialty patients and providers.

The private-labeled program will operate under the name AIP Specialty RX, and participation is available to AIP's independent pharmacies. The AIP Specialty RX Pharmacy Program offers patients the convenience of picking up their specialty medications at their local community pharmacy, the same pharmacy that is already providing the patients' more traditional medications for conditions such as asthma, diabetes and hypertension. The Specialty Pharmacy industry is rapidly growing, with specialty drugs expected to rise to 50% of the total drug spend by 2018. In addition, eight out of the top ten drugs by revenue will be specialty drugs by the year 2016.

"AIP and its independent pharmacy members are extremely excited to partner with Aureus Health Services to provide Specialty Pharmacy Services to our member pharmacies and their patients," said Jeff Lurey, Vice President, AIP. "Independent Pharmacy has often been excluded from this market and our partnership with Aureus will allow AIP members to once again provide these specialty pharmacy services and medications to their patients. We know the personalized care that can now be offered by our member pharmacies will greatly enhance the outcomes of our patients."

"We are thrilled to partner with AIP and its pharmacies on this important initiative," said Michael Nameth, CEO of Aureus Health Services. "Specialty patients require high touch services and expertise that will enhance adherence to medications, leading to improved patient outcomes. Furthermore, this relationship is an example of Aureus' commitment to provide specialty pharmacy solutions in the retail pharmacy sector."

**About The Academy of Independent Pharmacy:** *The Academy of Independent Pharmacy, located in Atlanta, GA represents Independent Pharmacists in communities across the state. With 450 Independent Pharmacies under their wing, they are one of The Georgia Pharmacy Association's oldest academies. AIP is dedicated to meeting the unique needs specific to its Independent Pharmacies and their patients. Their mission is to ensure the economic viability and security of Independent Pharmacies. For additional information, visit [www.gpha.org/aip](http://www.gpha.org/aip)*

**About Aureus Health Services:** *Aureus Health Services, a BelHealth Investment Partners portfolio company, is a national Specialty Pharmacy and Health Management Company with over 20 years of experience assisting patients, families, and medical professionals cope with and treat a wide range of chronic health conditions. Aureus is headquartered in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and operates facilities located in CA, MO, NJ, NY & PA. For additional information, visit [www.aureushealthservices.com](http://www.aureushealthservices.com)*

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