

# How Do Medicines Get to Where They Need to Go?



Most Americans take for granted the complex pharmaceutical supply chain that ensures their medication is available to them at their pharmacy, doctor's office or hospital. Pharmaceutical distributors play a vital role in maintaining this system by safely, securely and efficiently delivering medicines to hundreds of thousands of state and federally licensed pharmacies, hospitals, clinics and other healthcare providers across the country each and every day.



## Safely and Securely

Patients can trust that their doctor-prescribed medications arrive safely at the pharmacy because distributors ensure medicines are handled properly and protect the supply chain from counterfeit products.

## Everyday Deliveries

State-of-the-art, highly automated distribution centers, strategically located throughout the country, help distributors reliably deliver medicines faster than ever before. With operations continuously running, distributors can take orders by as late as 8:00 p.m. and deliver them to their destination by the next morning, and distributors are constantly envisioning new ways to move and secure medicines.

## Healthcare Efficiencies

Distributors save the healthcare system billions of dollars each year through streamlined, aggregated ordering, efficient shipping logistics and cutting-edge technologies.

## Streamlined Supply Chain

Without distributors, manufacturers would be required to maintain separate relationships with every pharmacy and hospital in America and coordinate the delivery of their products. Pharmacies and hospitals would need to individually order each medicine from a manufacturer directly. Not only would that add tremendous time and cost, but it would be almost impossible to manage inventory and guard against shortages.

## Rise to the Challenge

During natural disasters or emergencies, the needs of patients escalate. Distributors rise to the challenge of making sure critical medicines reach the people who need them despite the circumstances. Distributors' logistics expertise allows them to quickly spring into action during emergencies and rapidly deliver medical supplies and disaster aid around the clock to affected communities, ensuring the right medical supplies are getting to the right place at the right time.