Pharmacies Have Boatloads of Patient Data

When your doctor sends an electronic prescription to the pharmacy, they may send other information.

As a result, your pharmacy may have data on your state of health, history of prescription drug use, other non-drug treatments, use of alcohol, nicotine or illicit substances, allergies and drug side effects, relevant dietary restrictions, patient lifestyle habits, past history and issues, contact information for next of kin, and of course your address, telephone number, age, insurance company, credit card number, and more. This is why you might want to ask for a hand-written prescription.

They also know if you picked up your medication, and when, and this could be relayed to your doctor’s office or insurer. Finally, be careful about using GoodRx. To get the discount, you may have to agree to let the pharmacy share all your information with GoodRx.