UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT
Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the
Securities Exchange Act Of 1934

December 23, 2014
Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported)

ACURA PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Charter)

State of New York	**1-10113**	**11-0853640**
(State of Other Jurisdiction of Incorporation)	(Commission File Number)	(I.R.S. Employer Identification Number)

616 N. North Court, Suite 120
Palatine, Illinois 60067
(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip Code)

(847) 705-7709
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions (see General Instruction A.2. below):

☐ Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)

☐ Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17CFR 240.14a-12)

☐ Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17CFR240.14d- 2(b))

☐ Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17CFR 240.13e- 4(c))

Item 8.01 Other Events

On December 23, 2014 we issued a press release announcing that we acknowledge the announcement by Kmart Pharmacies that it is stocking NEXAFED® [pseudoephedrine hydrochloride (HCl)], our next generation pseudoephedrine with methamphetamine-resistant IMPEDE® technology, in all Kmart in-store pharmacies nationwide.

We also indicated that we now expect to begin shipping our new NEXAFED Pressure + Pain product in January 2015.

The press release is attached hereto and filed as Exhibit 99.1.

Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits

Exhibit Number	**Description**
99.1	Press Release dated December 23, 2014

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

ACURA PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.

By: /s/ Peter A. Clemens
Peter A. Clemens
Senior Vice President & Chief Financial Officer

Date: December 23, 2014

Exhibit Index

Exhibit Number	Description
99.1	Press Release dated December 23, 2014

Exhibit 99.1

Acura Pharmaceuticals
Acknowledges Distribution of Nexafed®
by Kmart Pharmacy

Palatine, IL (December 23, 2014) - Acura Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (NASDAQ: ACUR), today acknowledged the announcement by Kmart Pharmacy that Kmart is stocking NEXAFED [pseudoephedrine hydrochloride (HCl)], Acura's next generation pseudoephedrine with methamphetamine-resistant IMPEDE technology, in all Kmart in-store pharmacies nationwide (http://www.pharmacytimes.com/sap-news/Kmart-Pharmacy-Takes-Step-to-Battle-Methamphetamine).

NEXAFED launched commercially in December 2012 and is available at national and regional drug, grocery and mass merchandiser pharmacies. NEXAFED delivers the same efficacy and is priced comparably to branded immediate-release pseudoephedrine products. Acura expects to begin shipping its new NEXAFED Pressure + Pain product in January 2015. For more information about NEXAFED, please visit www.nexafed.com.

About NEXAFED
NEXAFED [pseudoephedrine hydrochloride (HCl)] is a 30 mg immediate-release abuse-deterrent decongestant. The next generation pseudoephedrine tablet combines effective nasal-congestion relief with IMPEDE technology, a unique polymer matrix that disrupts the conversion of pseudoephedrine into the dangerous drug, methamphetamine. Specifically, the Impede® technology forms a thick gel when the tablets are dissolved in solvents typically used in the pseudoephedrine extraction or methamphetamine production processes, trapping the pseudoephedrine or converted methamphetamine to prevent its isolation or purification.

About Acura Pharmaceuticals
Acura Pharmaceuticals is a specialty pharmaceutical company engaged in the research, development and commercialization of product candidates intended to address medication abuse and misuse, utilizing its proprietary LIMITX™, AVERSION® and IMPEDE® Technologies. LIMITX contains ingredients that are intended to reduce or limit the rate or extent of opioid release when multiple tablets are ingested. AVERSION contains polymers that cause the drug to gel when dissolved; it also contains compounds that irritate the nasal passages if the product is snorted. IMPEDE is designed to disrupt the processing of pseudoephedrine from tablets into methamphetamine.

In June 2011, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved our oxycodone HCl immediate-release tablets which incorporate the AVERSION Technology. The Company has a development pipeline of additional AVERSION Technology products containing other opioids.

In December 2012, the Company commenced commercialization of NEXAFED® (pseudoephedrine HCl), a 30 mg immediate-release abuse-deterrent decongestant. This next generation pseudoephedrine tablet combines effective nasal congestion relief with IMPEDE Technology, a unique polymer matrix that disrupts the conversion of pseudoephedrine into the dangerous drug, methamphetamine.

Forward-Looking Statements
Certain statements in this press release constitute "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Such forwarding-looking statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors which may cause our actual results, performance or achievements to be materially different from any future results, performance, or achievements expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements.

Contact:
for Acura Investor Relations
investors@acurapharm.com
847-705-7709

for Acura Media Relations
pr@acurapharm.com
847-705-7709