
**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

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): September 24, 2026

APTEVO THERAPEUTICS INC.

(Exact name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

Delaware
(State or Other Jurisdiction
of Incorporation)

001-37746
(Commission File Number)

81-1567056
(IRS Employer
Identification No.)

**2401 4th Avenue
Suite 1050
Seattle, Washington**
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

98121
(Zip Code)

Registrant's Telephone Number, Including Area Code: (206) 838-0500

Not Applicable

(Former Name or Former Address, if Changed Since Last Report)

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:

- ☐ 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 (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- ☐ Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- ☐ Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

Title of each class	Trading Symbol(s)	Name of each exchange on which registered
Common Stock, \$0.001 par value	APVO	The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging growth company as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933 (§ 230.405 of this chapter) or Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (§ 240.12b-2 of this chapter).

Emerging growth company ☐

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act. ☐

Item 8.01 Other Events.

On September 24, 2026, Aptevo Therapeutics Inc. (“Aptevo” or the "Company") issued a press release announcing progress in its next-generation trispecific programs. The Company is optimizing several trispecific candidates for reliable, scalable manufacturing, an essential step toward future human testing. Aptevo expects to enter Investigational New Drug (“IND”) enabling studies for the lead candidate, APVO451, in 1H2027.

A copy of the press release is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1 and is incorporated by reference herein.

Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.**(d) Exhibits**

The following exhibits are being filed herewith:

Exhibit No.	Description
99.1	Press release of Aptevo Therapeutics Inc. dated September 24, 2026.
104	Cover Page Interactive Data File (embedded within the Inline XBRL document)

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 hereunto duly authorized.

APTEVO THERAPEUTICS INC.

Date: September 24, 2026

By: /s/ Daphne Taylor

Daphne Taylor

Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

Aptevo Advances Next-Generation Trispecific Candidate Toward Clinical Development

Company making critical progress in scalable manufacturing and preparing the lead trispecific candidate for future human testing

Trispecifics combine three complementary cancer-fighting functions in one molecule, enabling a coordinated approach to recognizing cancer, activating immune cells and addressing tumor defenses

SEATTLE, WA – September 24, 2026 – Aptevo Therapeutics Inc. (“Aptevo” or the “Company”) (Nasdaq: APVO), a clinical-stage biotechnology company developing novel multispecific immuno-oncology therapeutics based on its proprietary ADAPTIR™ and ADAPTIR-FLEX™ platform technologies, today announced progress in its next-generation trispecific programs. The Company is optimizing several trispecific candidates for reliable, scalable manufacturing, an essential step toward future human testing. Aptevo expects to enter Investigational New Drug (“IND”) enabling studies for the lead candidate, APVO451, in 1H2027.

Trispecific therapies are gaining attention across cancer drug development as researchers explore their potential to bring multiple complementary functions together in a single molecule. Trispecifics are engineered to do more than traditional antibody therapies. Each molecule can combine three complementary functions to recognize cancer, activate an immune attack and help overcome defenses that cancer uses to survive. Aptevo’s protein-engineering and process development expertise makes it possible to bring these carefully selected functions together in one stable molecule and create differentiated therapies for specific cancers.

“Trispecifics open an exciting new path in cancer drug development by allowing us to engineer several complementary functions into one therapy,” said Peter Pavlik, PhD, Senior Director of Protein Engineering at Aptevo. “We are now taking the critical next step— optimizing trispecific candidates for reliable, scalable manufacturing, an essential step toward future human testing. Aptevo expects to enter Investigational New Drug (“IND”)- enabling studies for the lead candidate, APVO451, in 1H2027. This progress reflects both the strength of our engineering capabilities and our ability to translate promising science into potential medicines.”

The Company’s trispecific programs build on its multispecific expertise, offering the potential to create differentiated candidates—and value—across multiple cancer programs.

Why This Work Builds Value

Aptevo is moving its trispecific candidates beyond molecular design by developing reliable, scalable manufacturing methods to produce them for human testing. Showing that these

complex molecules can be manufactured consistently helps reduce a major development risk and prepares the lead candidate for the steps required before human testing. The same expertise and capabilities may also support additional trispecific candidates, strengthening the broader ADAPTIR-FLEX™ platform and creating more opportunities for future clinical progress and partnerships.

Aptevo expects to present additional details on these ongoing development activities at an upcoming international scientific conference.

About Aptevo Therapeutics

Aptevo Therapeutics Inc. (Nasdaq: APVO) is a clinical-stage biotechnology company focused on developing novel multispecific immunotherapies for the treatment of cancer. The Company's pipeline candidates are created from its proprietary ADAPTIR™ and ADAPTIR-FLEX™ platform technologies and are designed to engage the immune system through differentiated mechanisms of action. Aptevo's mission is to improve treatment outcomes and transform the lives of cancer patients.

Safe Harbor Statement

This press release includes forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. All statements other than statements of historical fact, including, without limitation, statements regarding Aptevo's plans and expectations for its multispecific therapeutic candidates; the potential benefits, activity, safety, manufacturability or clinical utility of such candidates; the effectiveness of the ADAPTIR™ and ADAPTIR-FLEX™ platforms; the development of cell lines, purification strategies, quality-control assays and lot-release assays; the ability to establish scalable and reproducible manufacturing processes; the timing and content of future scientific presentations; and the expected timing of entering IND enabling studies and the expected timing of an IND submission for the lead therapeutic candidate, are forward-looking statements. These statements are based on Aptevo's current intentions, beliefs and expectations and involve risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially. Additional risks and factors are described in Aptevo's filings with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, including its most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q and Current Reports on Form 8-K. Any forward-looking statement speaks only as of the date of this press release, and, except as required by law, Aptevo undertakes no obligation to update any forward-looking statement.

CONTACT:

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