



# WHITE BAGGING

## Jeopardizes Patient Care

**White bagging** occurs when payers require a narrow network of plan-selected pharmacies to dispense clinician-administered drugs and bill a patient's prescription medication plan. White bagging is a risk prone process that should only be considered when determined by the provider to be necessary and appropriate to support patient care.

### How Does White Bagging Work?



Provider makes diagnosis, develops medication treatment plan

#### PAYER-MANDATED WHITE BAGGING MODEL

Diagnosis and medication treatment plan entered into electronic health record (EHR)

**!** Payer mandates provider must use an external specialty pharmacy

Provider must write an additional prescription order and send to the **payer-mandated pharmacy**



**!** Bypasses EHR comprehensive safety checks



**Payer-mandated pharmacy** receives prescription, dispenses drug and bills to patient, mails drug to health system

**!** Health-system pharmacy has to coordinate medication delivery

**!** **POTENTIAL ISSUES:** misdirected mail, drug integrity, treatment plan changes, delayed delivery, patient scheduling



Health-system pharmacy prepares **white-bagged** medication. Considers changes in patient's clinical status that may require updates to treatment plan

Treatment plan updated

No changes

**!** Issues result in delayed treatment

#### HOSPITAL AND HEALTH-SYSTEM MODEL

Diagnosis and medication treatment plan entered into EHR. **EHR provides comprehensive medication safety checks and information**



**Health-system pharmacy** receives medication order



Health-system pharmacy prepares medication the **day of clinic infusion** from its inventory. Considers changes in patient's clinical status that may require updates to treatment plan



Patient receives medication infusion after interprofessional consultation



## What are the Consequences?



### FOR PATIENTS

- Delayed care for urgent treatment changes
- Delayed treatments due to payer benefit requirements
- Difficulty in care coordination
- May be charged co-pays for drugs not received due to shipping errors, treatment changes, etc.
- Anxiety when payer unnecessarily requires use of an additional unfamiliar pharmacy provider

### FOR THE HOSPITAL

- Negative impact on overall medication-use system
- Introduces multiple risk points
- Fragments established healthcare record for prescriptions
- Undermines EHR integrity



## How to Protect Patients

White bagging threatens practices that healthcare organizations have established to keep patients safe and hinders the ability of pharmacists to ensure medication and supply chain integrity.

### ASHP IS WORKING TO:



Advocate that the Food and Drug Administration enforce safety requirements in the **Drug Supply Chain Security Act** undermined by white bagging



Encourage state policymakers to **prohibit insurers and pharmacy benefit managers from mandating white bagging** or from steering patients away from health systems that refuse to accept potentially dangerous white-bagged drugs

For more information and resources, visit  
[ashp.org/whitebagging](https://ashp.org/whitebagging)

