



WHITE BAGGING

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WHAT IS WHITE BAGGING?

Under a “white bagging” arrangement, insurance companies force drugs to be purchased through an insurer’s exclusive specialty pharmacy of choice. The drugs are then shipped to a physician’s office or hospital facility for administration to a specific patient. This multi-step process interrupts the normal course of treatment and blocks providers’ ability to deliver the best possible care and service to their patients.

WHITE BAGGING...

RESTRICTS PATIENT & PHYSICIAN CHOICE

- When insurers mandate drugs be dispensed via their third-party specialty pharmacies, it **disrupts the patient experience and impairs the delivery of optimal patient care** as directed by their physician.

HARMS PATIENT SAFETY

- Under this arrangement, providers have no relationship with the outside pharmacy to address concerns, therefore this practice **undermines the integrated care** approach needed to provide quality patient care.
- **Unnecessary patient risk is created** by duplicate orders, hazardous waste disposal and administrative burden.
- Chain of custody compromises lead to **delayed, damaged, contaminated, or counterfeit shipments.**

DELAYS PATIENT CARE

- **Disease progression** can result from delays in care related to delivery issues, dosage errors, damage, or administrative hurdles that can interrupt care by days or even weeks.

INCREASES COST OF CARE

- **Patients are hit with higher cost-sharing responsibilities** when moved from their medical benefit to their pharmacy benefit under white bagging arrangements. Patients may also be charged co-pays for drugs not received due to shipping errors, treatment changes, and other factors.
- **Provider costs increase** due to extra storage requirements, more labor needs and increasing liability, while insurance company payments decrease for providing the same level of care.
- **Drug waste accelerates** when medications received for a specific patient cannot be administered or given to another patient. Because patient dose is often altered to meet patient need, drugs are wasted. This harms the environment and increases costs for the patient and provider.