

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.

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

