

WHAT'S BETTER FOR PATIENTS?

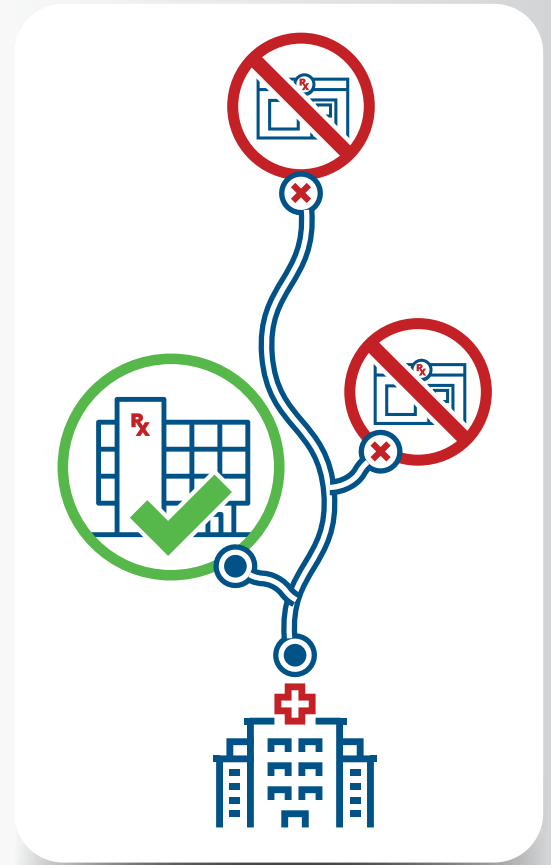
WHAT IS WHITE BAGGING?

White bagging is a policy in which insurance companies require drugs to be purchased through a specialty pharmacy of the insurer's choice and then ship those drugs to the hospital or infusion center where the patient will receive treatment.

HOW IS IT HARMFUL TO PATIENTS?

White bagging policies target powerful infusion drugs used to treat complex illnesses such as cancer. The patient's latest lab results—often used the day of the scheduled infusion—are critical to inform the correct dosage of these drugs in real-time. When insurance companies require infusion drugs to be purchased only from certain pharmacies, clinicians cannot quickly adjust treatments based on the patient's status. Care can be delayed because, due to a change in the patient's lab results, the drug cannot be administered and is discarded.

Prohibiting white bagging policies by insurance companies will reduce instances of delayed care, minimize drug waste, and ensure drugs are safely and effectively administered to the patient.



Please join the Florida Hospital Association in support of a patient-centered approach to care in our state.

REAL PATIENT STORIES



A pediatric patient required Acthar gel to treat a severe illness. Payer-mandated use of a specialty pharmacy resulted in an additional two-day stay as the hospital worked through the process to acquire the drug.



An autoimmune treatment was shipped for a patient, but the shipment was delayed. The patient's infusion had to be delayed because the medication may have been unusable once it arrived. The specialty pharmacy would not ship an additional dose until the initial dose was received.

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HOW WHITE BAGGING WORKS

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- White bagging policies can cause delays in treatment for patients with rare, complex, and life-threatening illnesses and pose significant risks to patient safety.
- Patients receiving clinician-administered drugs require real-time lab results to inform the dosage and mixture of drugs they are receiving. Unfortunately, white bagging policies prevent hospitals from timely adjusting treatment for their patients, who often have rapidly changing conditions.
- White bagging policies can lead to mishandling, improper storage, or waste of expensive specialty drugs.

WHITE BAGGING PROCESS

Physician makes diagnosis, develops safe and efficacious treatment plan



Payer-Mandated White Bagging Model

Patient Safety Model

Physician orders drug

The **payer-mandated specialty pharmacy**: mixes, fills, and labels the drug. No changes are allowed to the dosage beyond this point.

The drug is shipped from the **payer-mandated pharmacy**, possibly leading to delayed, damaged, or contaminated shipments.

Health system pharmacy receives and prepares the white-bagged drug. Unable to consider changes in patient's clinical status that may require updates to the treatment plan.

Physician orders drug

In-hospital or health system pharmacy receives the medication order.

The physician manages on-site inventory and can make point-of-care adjustments based on patient labs.

Drug is promptly filled and administered after consultation.

No Changes

Treatment Plan Updated
(Process begins again)

