

WHITE BAGGING is "the distribution of patient-specific medication from a pharmacy, typically a specialty pharmacy, to the physician's office, hospital, or clinic for administration."¹

A survey² of 90 multidisciplinary cancer care team members revealed that white bagging:

Impacts quality of care, raising safety concerns and causing treatment delays

"Oncology providers may find it necessary to adjust drug / dosing. In these situations, drugs may not be available, **causing harm to the patient** and possibly an unwanted inpatient admission or adverse event." Pharmacist, OH

Is not allowed in 59% of programs due to safety and implementation concerns

"Currently we do NOT allow white bagging due to past issues with wrong doses of medications received, **chain of custody issues**, amount of time spent to procure medication, etc." Pharmacy Manager, CO

Increases drug waste due to dose and schedule changes

"If a drug is shipped to us from a specialty pharmacy and the patient's treatment is held due to toxicity or changed because the disease progressed, then that **drug is wasted**." Pharmacist, MI

Burdens cancer program staff and reduces revenue

"Money from the current buy-and-bill system is reinvested into better and higher quality care for cancer patients. With white bagging, revenue simply goes into the **pockets of the insurers**." Oncology Executive Director, KY

WHAT CAN CANCER PROGRAMS DO?

- **Review your contract** with the payer that is mandating white bagging: Does the new mandate go against your contract? Can you postpone or request an exemption until the next contract negotiation?
- **Request individual exemptions** for patients and include justification (e.g., anticipated dose adjustments, disruptions to care)
- **Join ACCC and Oncology State Societies** in advocating for policies limiting white bagging
- **Communicate with your patient** about the policy; if it is disrupting care, explain what your program is doing to advocate for your patient.
- **Implement processes** to streamline tracking, coordination, and safe administration if your program accepts white bagging.
- **Track drug waste** occurring due to mandated white bagging policies.

Learn more at www.accc-cancer.org/white-bagging

¹National Association of Boards of Pharmacy. White and brown bagging emerging practices, emerging regulation. 2018.

²Association of Community Cancer Centers. Oncology Pharmacy Education Network (OPEN) Policy Survey: White/Brown/Clear Bagging. 2021.