HOW WHITE BAGGING IMPACTS PATIENT CARE
ACCC’s recent survey on white bagging in oncology programs and practices

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](http://www.accc-cancer.org/white-bagging)


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