

Importance of Safe, Timely, and Personalized Cancer Treatment

Treatment for cancer care today is highly personalized and tailored towards each individual patient. Chemotherapies consist of complex drug regimens that are dynamic and frequently adjusted at the point of care based on a patient's ever-changing circumstance, such as disease progression, co-morbidities, and weight variation, as well as the drug's toxicity and side effects.

In our practices, highly trained physicians safely stock, monitor, and administer our patients' treatment. This enables us to make the day-of-dose adjustments and drug substitutions or additions necessary to effectively treat the unique needs of each patient and their disease. Our close relationships with our patients and easy access to their medical history help ensure timeliness of care, a critical component of successful treatment.

Our practices utilize a closed supply distribution system that ensures the integrity of all products given to patients. All drugs are shipped directly from the manufacturer to an authorized distributor and then to our practice in containers that protect them from adverse environmental conditions.

Disruption to Patient Access Under White Bagging



Over the past few years, the nation's largest health insurers and pharmacy benefits managers (PBMs) have consolidated and now just a few entities dominate the health care marketplace. Each of these companies own and operate their own specialty pharmacy and are beginning to require their members to obtain their physician-administered drugs only through their pharmacy, instead of through the patient's physician office or hospital facility. This process is known as "white bagging."

What is White Bagging?



Under a "white bagging" arrangement, a patient's insurance company requires the drug to be purchased through the insurer's exclusive specialty pharmacy of choice and then shipped to the oncologist's office for administration to that specific patient. This complex requirement interrupts the normal course of treatment and interferes with the oncologist's ability to provide the best possible care and service to the patient.

White Bagging Harms Patient Care



Delays Treatment

A patient must wait until the drug is delivered to oncologist. Day-of-dose adjustments are not possible. Delivery issues, damage, or administrative hurdles can delay care by days or even weeks. Delays may cause disease progression.

Creates Drug Waste

Medications received for a specific patient cannot be given to another patient.

Threatens Supply Chain Integrity

Patients could be at risk for contaminated or counterfeit products.

Increases Out-of-Pocket Costs

When an insurer mandates white bagging, the treatment is typically switched from the patient's medical benefit to his/her pharmacy benefit, which often has higher cost-sharing responsibilities.

White Bagging Threatens Practice Viability



Increase Costs to Practice

White bagging makes it more expensive for practices to provide care by requiring extra storage and labor and increasing liability. At the same time, it decreases payment from the insurance company to the physician for the same amount of care.

Our industry needs a *long-term, proactive* solution to protect patients access to care:

Protecting Patient Choice & Safety in Cancer Care



✓ Model Legislation:

Texas HB 1586 & SB 1161 protects patient choice and safety in cancer care by prohibiting health plans from requiring patients to use the plans exclusive specialty pharmacy. The goal of HB 1586 and SB 1161 is to enable patients to continue receiving their normal course of treatment from their oncologist. This language also protects the patient from being penalized financially if they choose to receive their medication directly from their physician instead of a pharmacy selected by the health plan.