

# WHITE BAGGING REMOVES PATIENT CHOICE, DELAYS PATIENT CARE

White bagging is a new tactic by health insurers, that requires certain medications to be purchased through specialty pharmacies often owned by the insurance company instead of the patient's preferred local health care provider. White bagging creates risks for patients by sourcing drugs outside the normal supply chain and quality control processes, causes patient appointments to be canceled due to shipping problems, and creates delays in medication administration, which can significantly affect patient health.

## INSURANCE COMPANY-MANDATED WHITE BAGGING MODEL

Patient visits a health care provider and receives a diagnosis and prescribed treatment plan.

The health care provider writes a prescription order and sends it to the external insurer-mandated pharmacy. Begins scheduling of infusions or injection therapies for patient.

Insurer requires prior authorization. Hospital care coordinators, nursing staff and patients spend hours on the phone with insurance companies to allow patient to receive medications in the hospital. This process can take weeks.



*If the insurance company continues to deny care, patient begins this process again – and has yet to receive treatment.*

The external pharmacy mails the drug to the patient's provider after patients have paid their out-of-pocket costs. Hospitals bear all the responsibility of medication storage and successful delivery.



*Mail delays and delivery coordination can often delay patient treatments, and even result in patients paying for drugs they never receive.*

The hospital's pharmacy prepares the "white bagged" medication and reviews the patient's clinical status for changes that may impact the treatment plan.

*If changes in the patient's clinical status require a different dose or different medication, this process must start from the beginning.*

*+ If the health system pharmacy determines that the dosage is appropriate for the patient's clinical status, the patient receives the medication.*

## TRADITIONAL MODEL

Patient visits a health care provider and receives a diagnosis and prescribed treatment plan.

The patient's health care provider uses the patient's electronic health record to conduct a comprehensive medication safety check.

The health care provider sends the patient's medication order directly to the pharmacy to ensure medication quality and availability for the patient is best to fulfill the prescription.

The pharmacy reviews the patient's clinical status and fulfills the medication order appropriate for the patient. Patients can have "just-in-time" medications from a hospital in-house pharmacy administered in a day or less

*+ The patient receives the appropriate treatment.*



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White bagging causes serious, potentially dangerous disruptions to patient care and removes patient choice at the time they deserve it most. This disruption to care is happening right now to patients across the country, including in Wisconsin, because insurance companies are making decisions

that belong to doctors and their patients.

Lawmakers in states across the country are taking action to end the harmful practice of white bagging. **Wisconsin needs to do the same.**



**Call your state lawmaker.** Tell them it is time to put an end to insurance company white bagging and put patients first in Wisconsin.

