

PRESERVE & PROTECT PATIENT CHOICE & ACCESS TO SAFE & TIMELY CARE

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.

Policies to Support Patient Choice and Access to Timely Care:

Prohibit plans from interfering with patient choice of pharmacy to receive physician administered drugs (PADs) by letting physicians and patients decide what's best for their care.

Prohibit PBMs and insurers from mandating white bagging for chronic, rare, and life-threatening diseases in the physician office setting.

Prohibit health plans from requiring a PAD to be dispensed by a pharmacy or affiliated pharmacy as a condition of coverage.

Prohibit plans from covering drugs at a different benefit tier. 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.

What national groups are saying:

"ASCO opposes the mandatory imposition of white-bagging..."
- Association for Clinical Oncology, ASCO Position Statement on White Bagging, August 24, 2023

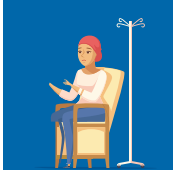
"COA opposes white and brown bagging because it interferes with the proper treatment and management of patients with cancer." - Community Oncology Alliance Formal Comments to FTC, May 25, 2022

What is White-Bagging?


White bagging is a process where insurance companies require patients to obtain their physician-administered drugs (PAD) exclusively from a designated specialty pharmacy that is often affiliated with or owned by the insurer. These drugs are then shipped to the oncologist's office for administration to the patient. Insurers are requiring white bagging because it allows them to control downstream pharmacy and provider assets—but it significantly complicates the oncologist's ability to provide patient care.

WHITE-BAGGING MANDATES HARM PATIENT CARE


Cancer care is highly personalized. The rigid white bagging process complicates the oncologists' ability to tailor treatments for each patient and prohibits physicians from making day-of-dose adjustments, increasing costs, generating drug waste, and causing delays that could result in disease progression.



Treatment Delays
A patient must wait until the ordered 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.




Drug Waste
Chemotherapy received for a specific patient cannot be given to another patient. It therefore becomes waste, adding to the increased cost of healthcare.




Increased Patient Costs
When an insurer mandates white-bagging, the treatment is typically switched from the patient's medical benefit to their pharmacy benefit, which often has a higher cost-sharing requirement.



Threatens Supply Chain Integrity
Supply chain is out of physician control, leading to delayed, damaged, contaminated, or counterfeit shipments.

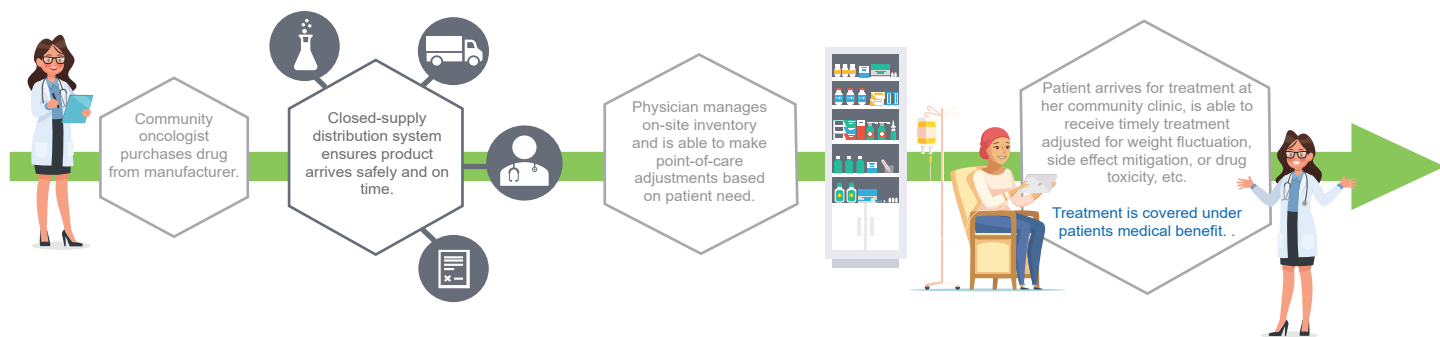


Threatens Patient Access to Community Care
Community oncologists avoid allowing white-bagging due to concerns about potential liabilities related to patient safety. If health plans mandate this practice, restricting community providers from using on-site inventory, patients are forced to seek care elsewhere, often at a higher cost site of service.

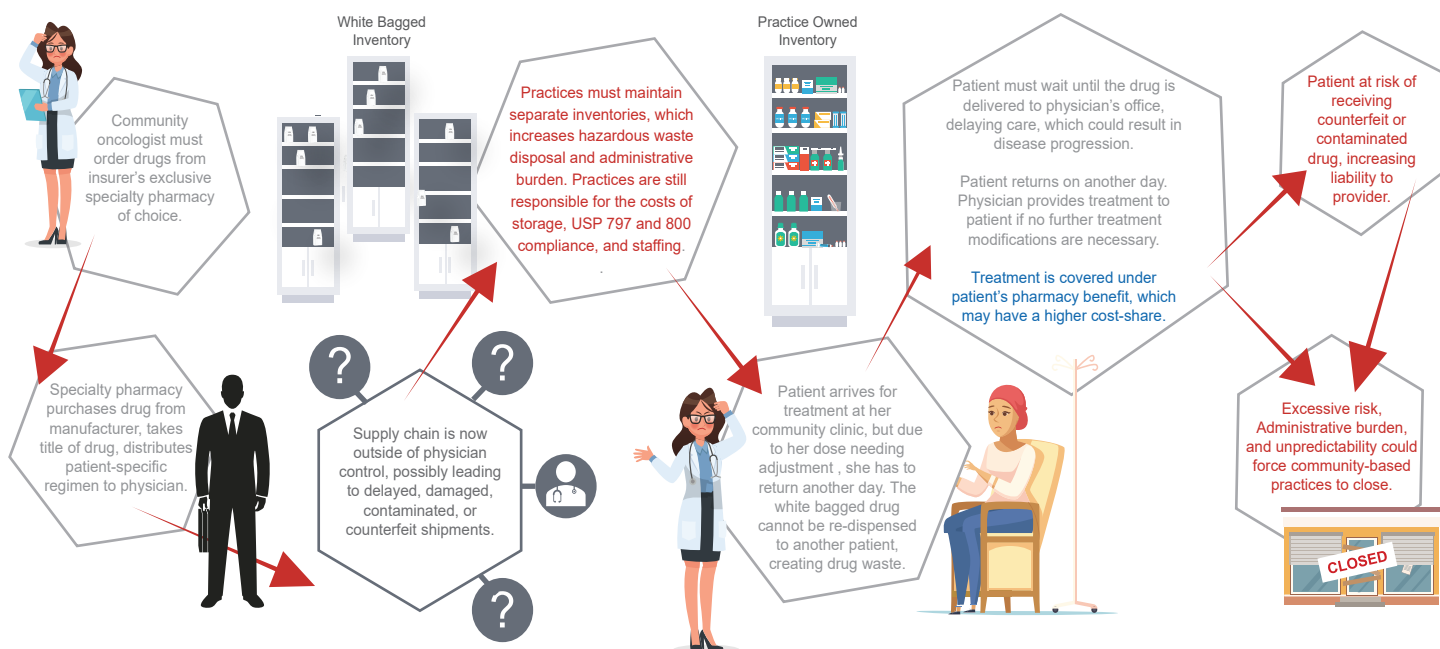


Threatens Practice Viability
White bagging makes it more expensive for practices to provide care by requiring extra storage and labor and increasing liability. At the same time, it decreases payment from the insurance company to the physician for the same amount of care.

How patient's receive care in the community oncology setting today:



Disruption to patient access and care under a white-bagging mandate:



Patient Story:

Early 2023, a young man in his mid-thirties with non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma came to a community oncology clinic for a chemotherapy infusion while waiting on the development of his CAR-T treatment. Unbeknown to the practice, his health insurance plan included a white bagging policy which they discovered when the plan denied a critical chemotherapy drug. The practice worked with the plan to fight for coverage but, by the time the patient was able to receive the drug through the clinic's internal inventory, an additional four weeks had passed.

This extensive delay took a devastating toll on the patient's physical and mental health and well-being. Despite previous steering related delays leading to potential disease progression, the patient's plan subsequently denied access to the necessary follow up injection to prevent infection through the practice's on-site inventory. Instead, he was forced to use a mail order specialty pharmacy. His mail order medication never arrived and he was later hospitalized for infection. - Delaware patient

IT'S TIME TO SAFEGUARD PATIENTS FROM WHITE-BAGGING MANDATES.