



# White Bagging

## SB 3225 – Senator Cristina Castro

- "White Bagging" refers to a process in healthcare where medications are shipped to healthcare providers and facilities from an outside specialty pharmacy or distributor, rather than being purchased, stored, and provided to the patient by the facility's pharmacy or a healthcare provider. These medications require administration by a healthcare provider either to comply with FDA guidelines, or because they are deemed unsafe by a provider for the patient to self-administer.
- White Bagging means that instead of patients getting their medications directly from their provider or pharmacy, the medications are shipped through the mail or another delivery service to the healthcare facility for preparation and administration.

### **What are the negative impacts on patient care with White-Bagging?**

- Delays in care including the initiation of drug therapy. Any treatment changes due to patients' clinical status would create a delay since drugs must be shipped from a remote pharmacy or drug distributor.
- Additional payer benefit requirements such as prior authorizations through insurance and pharmacy benefit managers delays care as do problems with shipping the drugs, i.e. lack of temperature control, damaged/broken product or drugs lost in shipping.
- Increased difficulty in patient care coordination since outside pharmacies and drug distributors are involved as tracking information is rarely provided and minimal proactive communication is received.
- Changes in therapy require the white-bagging process to start over which results in rescheduling of appointments causing additional stress and frustration for patients.
- Patients may be charged co-pays for drugs not received due to shipping errors, treatment changes, etc.
- Decreased medication safety with multiple risk points for medication errors.
- Increased fragmentation of established healthcare record process for prescriptions.
- Incomplete electronic medical records since some pharmacy data is kept at the outside specialty pharmacy or drug distributor.

**For More Information – Contact:**

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**Vote Yes for SB 3225!**