

# AON White & Brown Bagging Position Statement



**American Oncology Network (AON) believes in placing the patient first. AON will therefore not be allowing the practice of “white bagging” or “brown bagging” as the safety and integrity of the medication is not assured thereby jeopardizing patient care.**

As part of AON’s commitment to excellence and quality care, we continuously focus on providing the best therapeutic options for our patients.

Community oncology providers and health systems across the nation have been under increased pressure to accept white and brown bagging practices due to payer mandates. White and brown bagging requires providers to divert from the traditional buy-and-bill drug acquisition model that allows the independent sourcing and billing of drugs that physicians administer in-house. Additionally, both models require providers to use a payer-designated pharmacy creating risks that can negatively impact patient care and safety.



## Safety Concerns

Control over procurement, storage, and dispensing medications is removed leading to increased risk of avoidable errors and lack of leverage to correct safety issues.

## Increased Costs

White and brown bagging is typically reimbursed under pharmacy benefits. Pharmacy benefits reimbursement is often much higher resulting in increased patient copays.

## Patient Outcomes

Delays in obtaining drugs from specialty pharmacies may require patient treatments to be rescheduled negatively impacting patient outcomes.

## Provider Challenges

Insurance mandates can interfere with physician's professional judgement and create operational burdens on medical providers to ensure timely and quality care.

At AON, we are committed to quality patient care. Quality patient care is ensured by allowing practices to manage all aspects of drug therapy. As such, AON will continue to work with payers to maintain safe distribution and acquisition under the traditional buy-and-bill model. AON Pharmacy, our in-house specialty pharmacy, can dispense patient prescriptions and transport medications to the clinic for administration under our **clear bagging policy**. This will ensure the practice has a clear "chain of custody" for medications administered in our clinics. The medically integrated pharmacy can also ensure medications are delivered on time so there are no disruptions in patient care. If AON Pharmacy cannot fill the prescription, AON Pharmacy will inform the staff to select an alternate medication that the clinic can buy/bill/administer to the patient.

**White bagging:** A specialty pharmacy ships a patient's prescription directly to the clinic. The provider holds the product until the patient arrives for treatment.

**Brown bagging:** The patient has the prescription delivered to their home which is then taken to the clinic for administration.

✓ **Clear bagging:** The clinic's internal specialty pharmacy dispenses the patient's prescription and transports the product to the clinic for administration.