



NETWORK *Notification*

Notice Date: March 21, 2023
To: Georgia CareSource Providers
From: CareSource
Subject: "White Bagging" Prohibited: State-Issued Directive

Summary

The Office of Commissioner of Insurance and Safety Fire has brought to CareSource's attention a prohibited practice known as "white bagging". "White bagging" refers to the distribution of patient-specific medication from a pharmacy (often a specialty pharmacy) to a physician's office, hospital or clinic for administration.

Impact

While this practice does offer some benefits to patients, providers and payers, it also raises significant concerns. "White bagging" may create patient protection issues, especially in the context of oncology treatment. This also puts increased stress on patients and hospitals in rural parts of the state, who may not be able to obtain necessary drugs from local pharmacies.

Importance

The practice of "white bagging" is prohibited at any hospital in the state designated as a "Critical Access Hospital" by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). This practice is also prohibited at any hospital not designated as a "Critical Access Hospital" that is located 30 miles or more from another hospital.

Questions?

Contact the Office of the Commissioner with any questions at <https://oci.georgia.gov> or review the [directive](#).

GA-Multi-P-1625050

DCH Approved: 1/18/2023