



To: House Committee on Health Care  
From: Jessa Barnard, Executive Director, [jbarnard@vtmd.org](mailto:jbarnard@vtmd.org)  
Date: May 13, 2025  
RE: Oppose New Section 4 of H. 266 Regarding White Bagging

**The Vermont Medical Society writes with opposition to the Senate proposed amendment to H. 266, which would repeal a restriction on white-bagging.**

VMS supported the legislation in 2022 that amended 8 V.S.A. § 4089j to continue to allow white - bagging when agreed to by the patient or provider, but would not allow it to be forced on a patient.

**Here are some real-life examples from Vermont providers that VMS shared in 2022 of how white-bagging impacted patient care when it was allowed more broadly:**

- **A patient with multiple myeloma had infusions of Empliciti delayed twice, resulting in cancer relapse:**
  - A patient who for two years had been in remission was prescribed Empliciti to prevent relapse when blood work showed that their multiple myeloma had worsened.
  - As a result of denials and delays in shipment by the designated pharmacy, the patient waited several weeks for their infusion while the cancer worsened.
  - By the time the hospital received the medication, the patient's myeloma had progressed and they required a stronger treatment regimen.
- **Due to insurer's white-bagging program, patient with ulcerative colitis experienced increased symptoms and "flare ups:"**
  - Patient required to spend hours on phone with the designated pharmacy to authorize timely medication shipment for infusion administration.
  - Despite those efforts, the designated pharmacy often fails to ship the medication in time for the patient's monthly infusion appointment.
  - "Flare ups" caused severe pain and can lead to hospitalization.

VMS also has concerns regarding increased out of pocket costs to patients – because medications being provided by the PBM via white-bagging are often covered as a medical benefit not a prescription benefit, and fall under a higher or separate deductible. (See the discussion at <https://www.goodrx.com/drugs/savings/white-bagging>).

Thank you for considering VMS' comments and for considering alternatives to allowing payers to require patients and providers to participate in white-bagging.