Putting Patient's Health and Safety First:
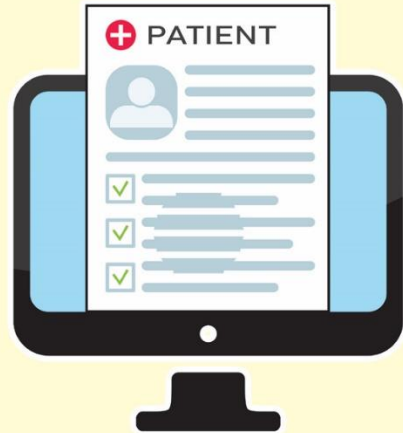
Prevent WHITE BAGGING
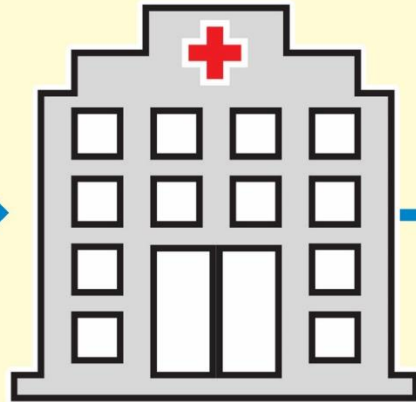
Kentucky Hospital Association

September 29, 2022
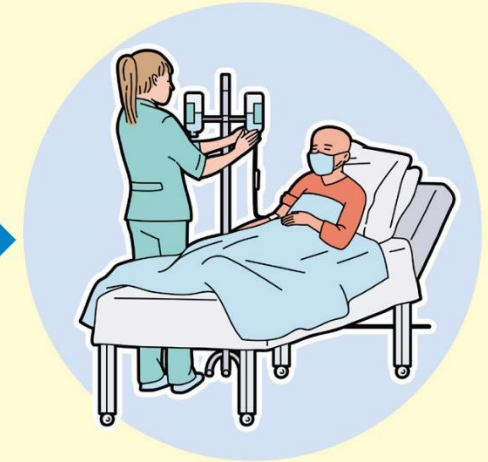
Hospital and Health-System Model

Diagnosis and medication treatment plan entered into EHR. **EHR provides comprehensive medication safety checks and information**

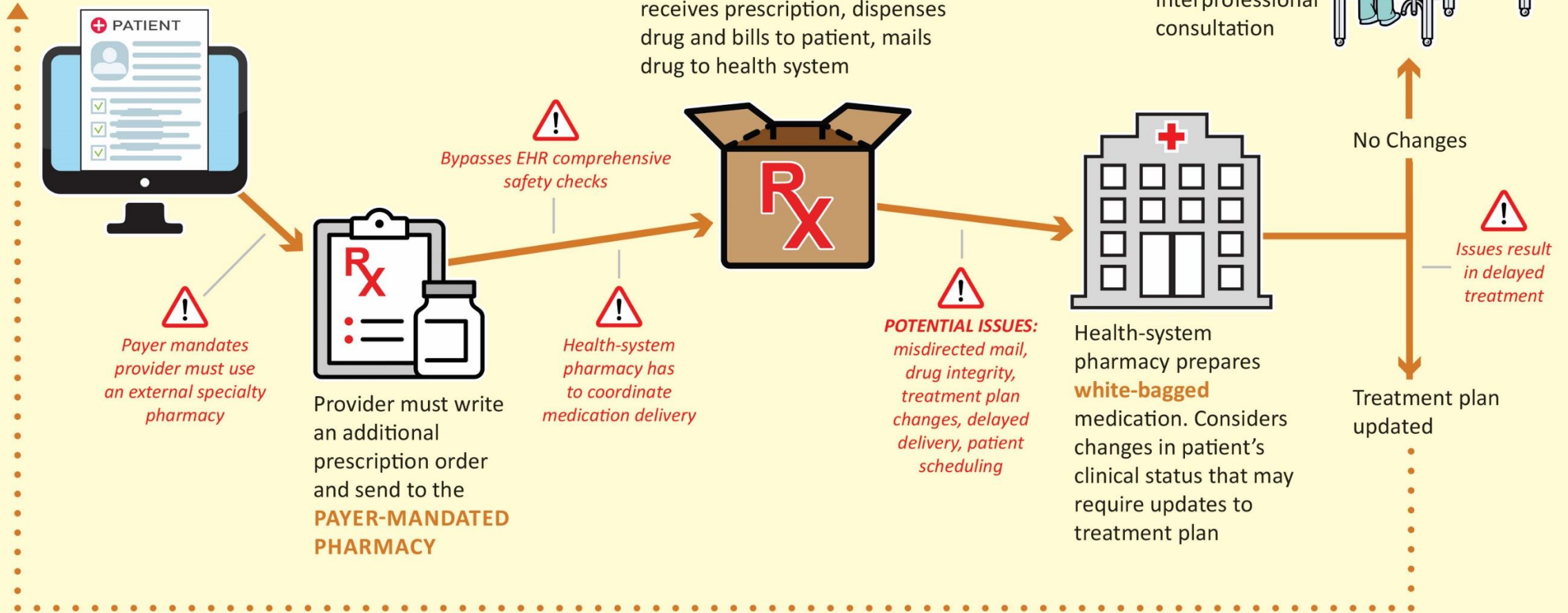**Health-system pharmacy** Receives medication order

Health-system pharmacy prepares medication the **day of clinic infusion** from its inventory. Considers changes in patient's clinical status that may require updates to treatment plan

Patient receives medication infusion after interprofessional consultation

Payer-Mandated White Bagging Model

Diagnosis and medication treatment plan entered into electronic health record (EHR)

Payer mandates provider must use an external specialty pharmacy

Provider must write an additional prescription order and send to the **PAYER-MANDATED PHARMACY**

Bypasses EHR comprehensive safety checks

Health-system pharmacy has to coordinate medication delivery

PAYER-MANDATED PHARMACY receives prescription, dispenses drug and bills to patient, mails drug to health system

POTENTIAL ISSUES: *misdirected mail, drug integrity, treatment plan changes, delayed delivery, patient scheduling*

Health-system pharmacy prepares **white-bagged** medication. Considers changes in patient's clinical status that may require updates to treatment plan

No Changes

Issues result in delayed treatment

Treatment plan updated

Patient receives medication infusion after interprofessional consultation

What are the Consequences?
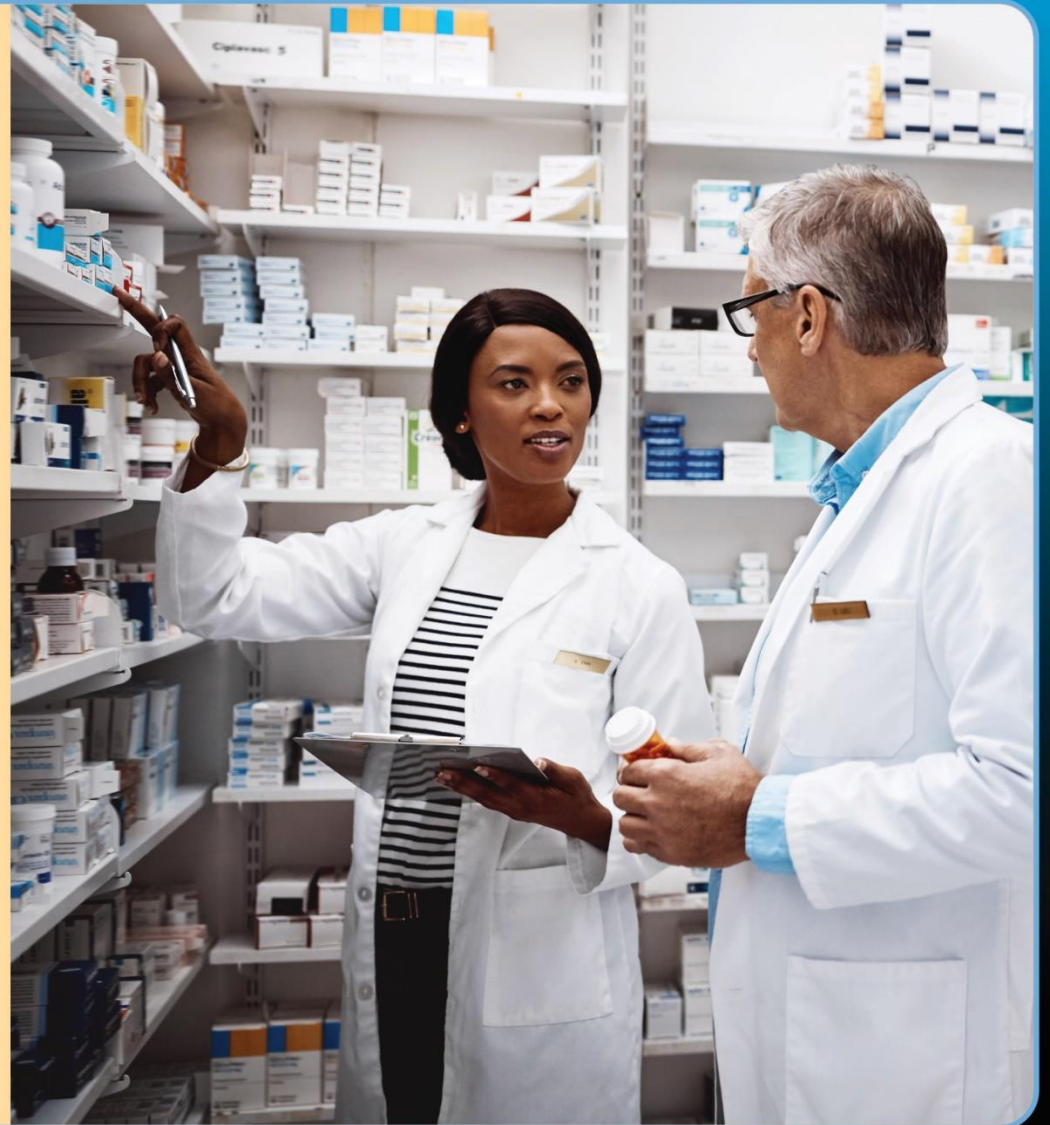
For patients . . .

- Delayed care for urgent treatment changes

- Difficulty in care coordination

- May be charged co-pays for drugs not received due to shipping errors, treatment changes, etc.

- Anxiety when payer unnecessarily requires use of an additional unfamiliar pharmacy provider

What are the Consequences?

For the hospital . . .

- Negative impact on overall medication-use system

- Introduces multiple risk points

- Fragments established health care record for prescriptions

- Undermines EHR integrity

How to Protect Patients

White bagging **threatens practices** that **health care organizations have established to keep patients safe** and **hinders the ability of pharmacists to ensure medication and supply chain integrity.**

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