

Is it Safe to Buy my Medicine Over the Internet?

Dangers of Buying Drugs Online

With the economy in recession, consumers are looking for ways to save money. As a result, you may be trying to reduce the cost of your prescription drugs. Surfing the web for good deals on medications may actually turn out to be a dangerous pursuit. Some web sites sell medicine that may not be safe to use, or they may put you at risk in other ways.

While many web sites are operating legally and offering convenience and privacy, The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) warns consumers to avoid "rogue web sites" that are NOT operating within the law. These web sites can look very sophisticated and legitimate but can actually be illegal operations. Buying medications online from a company you don't know means you may not know exactly what you're getting. If there is no way to contact a web-based pharmacy by phone, if prices are dramatically lower than the competition, or if no prescription from your doctor is required, you should be especially wary.

Some medicines sold online:

- are counterfeit or fake
- contain NO legitimate ingredients
- contain dangerous ingredients
- are too old, too strong, or too weak
- aren't FDA-approved (haven't been checked for safety and efficacy)
- aren't labeled, stored, or shipped correctly

Some web sites selling medicines online:

- aren't U.S. state-licensed pharmacies or aren't pharmacies at all
- may give a diagnosis that is not correct and sell medicine that is not right for you or your condition
- won't protect your personal information

Welcome

BeyondRx, a second generation Pharmacy Benefit Manager, serves employers and other groups that want affordable prescription programs for their members.

We invite you to visit us at www.beyond-rx.com to locate a pharmacy near you. Or you can call us at 866-247-9996, ext. 2. We will be happy to assist you! If you find that your pharmacy is not currently participating in our program, feel free to share our information with your pharmacist and encourage him or her to join our network.

Tips for Ordering Your Medications Online

Here are some helpful tips from the Food & Drug Administration (FDA) on how to shop for medication safely online:

- Purchase only from pharmacies located in the United States where FDA and state authorities can assure the quality of drug manufacturing, packaging, distribution, and labeling.
- Understand that all online pharmacies should be licensed by the state board of pharmacy where the web site is operating. To see if an online pharmacy has a valid license and meets state quality standards, contact the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy at (847) 698-6227 or visit www.nabp.net.
- Check to see if an online pharmacy has the VIPPS Seal, the seal of Verified Internet Pharmacy Practices Sites Accreditation Program. This seal was established by the NABP to help protect you and guide you through pharmacy shopping.
- An online pharmacy should have a licensed pharmacist available to answer your questions.
- An online pharmacy, just like a brick-and-mortar pharmacy, should require a prescription from your doctor or other health care professional who is licensed to prescribe medicine.
- Online pharmacies should provide contact information and allow you to talk to a person if you have problems or questions.

Also, you should know your medications. Any time you get a prescription refilled, check the color, shape, and markings of the medicine. If anything looks different, talk to your pharmacist right away to make sure you have the correct medication.

If you encounter a problematic web site, report it to the FDA. To do this, visit www.fda.gov/buyonline and click on "Notify FDA about problem web site." You can read more about counterfeit drugs and buying medications online here as well.

OFFICE HOURS & HOLIDAYS

*BeyondRx's office hours are
Monday-Friday from 8:00 am to 7:00 pm CST.
Saturday hours are 9:30 am to 3:30 pm CST.
Holiday hours: Office Closed*

2009 Holidays:

New Years Day	Thursday, January 1
Memorial Day	Monday, May 25
Independence Day	Friday & Saturday, July 3 & 4
Labor Day	Monday, September 7
Thanksgiving	Thursday and Friday November 26 & 27
Christmas	Friday, December 25

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