



BE AWARE & TAKE CARE:
Talk to your pharmacist!

What you should know before buying prescription drugs on the Internet

You may be tempted to buy prescription drugs using an Internet website, but be careful, and know your source. Buying prescription drugs on the Internet from an unknown source increases the risk of receiving a drug that is contaminated, diluted, or repackaged to show the wrong expiration date.

Check to see if the pharmacy's website contains the Verified Internet Pharmacy Practice Sites (VIPPS™) seal. A VIPPS™ seal means the website is a licensed pharmacy where FDA-approved medicines can be bought.



TIPS TO CONSIDER

- Beware if no physical address of the pharmacy is provided on the pharmacy's website, as it could be located outside the U.S.
- Reputable Internet pharmacies will require a prescription from your doctor or other health care professional that is licensed in the U.S.
- Be careful if asked to provide personally identifiable information like a social security number, because of the risk of identity theft.
- Evaluate all costs to purchase on-line. With shipping, handling, and other costs, it may not be cheaper than buying your prescription drugs at a local pharmacy.
- Beware of changes in your health after taking a drug purchased on-line and if you feel differently, talk to your health care provider.



- Ask what the Internet pharmacy will do for you if you have a problem with the medication. Legitimate website pharmacies provide consumers with consultations with a licensed pharmacist, like in traditional storefront pharmacies.

California State
Board of Pharmacy
1625 N. Market Blvd.
Suite N-219
Sacramento, CA 95834

www.pharmacy.ca.gov
(916) 574-7900

