Medication e-shopping

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Why buy medications online?

- Convenience
- Cost
- Comparison shopping
- Time

1 in 6 Americans buy medications online

Last year, several billions of dollars spent on e-purchasing
Why not buy online?

- Fake pharmacies
- Credit card fraud
- Contamination
- Medication sources?
Counterfeit drugs include any fake or substandard medicine that is below the FDA's established standards of quality but hide this fact. Counterfeit drugs can be any, or all, of the following things:

- Too strong or too weak
- Missing key ingredients
- Made with dangerous ingredients
- Contaminated with foreign, even toxic, materials
- Made in unsanitary or unsterile conditions
- Created using unsafe standards
- Improperly labeled, stored or handled
- Expired (out-of-date)

Fact: Counterfeit drugs are not limited to brand-name prescription drugs. Counterfeiters also create fake versions of generic and over-the-counter (OTC) drugs.
NABP

- National Association of Boards of Pharmacy: reviewed over 8,000 sites
  - 80% do not require a valid prescription
  - 46% offer foreign or non-FDA-approved drugs
  - 64% use an online questionnaire to evaluate patient health and medication needs, which can be very dangerous
  - 26% are located outside of the United States and selling drugs illegally to patients in the US
So what are fake/rogue pharmacies?

- Use the internet and email to offer drugs and medicine at very cheap prices
- May steal credit card information
- May sell fake products that may harm your health
- May not deliver products at all
- Do not require a valid prescription – It is illegal to sell a prescription medication in the United States without a valid prescription
One of these medicines is fake. Can you tell which?
How fake pharmacies attract consumers?

- **Email**: Unsolicited emails offering unbelievably low prices
- **Internet ads**: Taking unsuspecting consumers to a link
- **May add spyware and key loggers on your computer** downloading your personal information
The lavish offices of MyCanadianPharmacy
Does the govt. do anything to prevent this?

- Actually, quite a bit!!!

- National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP) has a Verified Internet Pharmacy Practice Site (VIPPS) certification for trusted sites

- Vet-VIPPS for veterinary pharmacy sites

- US DoJ Settlement with Google for rogue pharmacy website ads

- Online Pharmacy Safety Act of 2011 in Congress

- Nationwide education for consumers, news reports etc.
How to spot a fake/rogue pharmacy?

- Unsolicited email
- Subject of email has nothing to do with content
- Incorrect spellings or punctuations (done to avoid anti-spam filters)
- No prescription required
Buy high-quality pills and save your money!
Canadian based pharmacy is open 24/7.
The same high-quality meds as at your local drug store.

Instant worldwide shipping, friendly support guaranteed.

Click Here- http://lipfijcigr.com

We provide confidential and secure purchase!

To Unsubscribe: http://lipfijcigr.com/ remove
What can I do to protect myself and others?

- Use your judgment:
  - If the offer is too good to be true, it is
  - Do not open unsolicited emails
  - Pharmacy does not have a physical address or lists address overseas
  - Does not have a contact telephone number
  - Does not require a prescription or offers to get prescription for you
So which websites are trustworthy?

- Look for the VIPPS seal
- AwareRx has a list of trusted pharmacies:
  
  http://awarerx.org/VIPPS_Pharmacies.php

Non-accredited (no VIPPS seal) but trusted pharmacies:

www.legitscript.com

www.pharmahelper.com
Which sites should I avoid?

- These sites are out of compliance with NABP patient safety and practice standards

- [http://awarerx.org/Not_Recommended_Sites.php](http://awarerx.org/Not_Recommended_Sites.php)

- Many websites frequently change names and become creative at breaking the law – again if something looks suspicious, ask your healthcare practitioner

- You may alternatively email NABP with questions/concerns: custserv@nabp.net
Advocacy

• Spread the word

• Report fake websites:
  1. Report to the FDA (emergency only – 303-443-1220)
  2. Non-emergency: report on website:
     http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/email/oc/buyonline/buyonlineform.cfm
  3. Contact NABP:
     http://www.nabp.net/contact/
Be safe

Counterfeit Drug Cases Opened by FDA per Year

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