BUYING MEDICINE FROM UNSAFE SOURCES CAN BE DANGEROUS, EVEN DEADLY

Counterfeit medicine is big business, with criminals making an estimated \$200 billion per year.

Counterfeit medicines contribute to up to one million deaths each year worldwide.

Fake drugs often contain dangerous – even deadly – ingredients like fentanyl.

These unsafe medicines are often sold illegally at bodegas, flea markets, "storefront pharmacies", and online.

95% of websites offering prescription-only drugs online operate illegally or fail to meet practice standards.

At any given time, there are 30,000 - 40,000 active illegal online pharmacies.





The Alliance for Safe Online Pharmacies (ASOP Global) is a nonprofit dedicated to making the Internet safe for patients worldwide by combatting illegal online drug sellers and counterfeit medicines.

www.BuySafeRx.pharmacy





The **ASOP Global Foundation** is a 501(c) (3) charitable organization dedicated to educating consumers about the proliferation of illegal pharmacy websites and counterfeit medicines and how to stay safe.

www.ASOPFoundation.pharmacy

BUYING PRESCRIPTION MEDICINE



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW TO STAY SAFE AND SAVE MONEY



CAN YOU SPOT THE FAKE?





Don't be fooled by low prices and sophisticated packaging

- Flea markets, bodegas, and many online sellers portray themselves as safe and legal vendors, but they are operating illegally and have been found to often sell counterfeit, poor quality, or otherwise diverted drugs.
- These illegal and unsafe sources profit from patients' need for medicine; they do not put patient safety first.
- Medicines sold from unverified sources have been found to contain dangerous and sometimes deadly substances, including fentanyl, arsenic, lead, and other poisons.
- These products may also contain too much, too little, or no active ingredients.
- Counterfeit medicines may not work, and could even make you sick, or worse.



BuySafeRx.pharmacy provides consumers with resources to check the safety and legitimacy of an online pharmacy website prior to purchase. LegitScript's Website Verification Program and the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy ".Pharmacy" Program tools are available on this website.



NeedyMeds.org offers a drug discount card that can save patients up to 80% on many prescription medicines and Patient Assistance Programs that provide free or discounted medicines to eligible patients who are unable to afford them.



RefillWise.pharmacy negotiates on patients behalf so that they have access to lower prescription drug prices at their local pharmacy. RefillWise is accepted at all major pharmacies across the country.

WAYS TO STAY SAFE AND SAVE MONEY

- Shop around and ask your local pharmacist for recommendations. Not every pharmacy sells every medicine for the same price.
- Consider filling your prescriptions at local or specialty pharmacies they often can offer a good price.
- Ask your pharmacist if the price of your prescription medications could be lowered if you pay cash or purchase an extended supply.
- Look for ".pharmacy" in the website address or verify your pharmacy website is safe and legal by visiting www.BuySafeRx.pharmacy.



NEVER BUY FROM A SHOP ONLINE OR IN-PERSON THAT:

- X Doesn't have a licensed pharmacist on staff for consultation
- X Doesn't require a valid prescription from a licensed physician
- X Doesn't have a physical street address in the United States
- X Sends unsolicited emails
- X Ships medications worldwide