

### Prescription Scams

**Online Pharmacy dangers:** According to the FDA and the National Boards of Pharmacy (NABP), using online pharmacies can come with several risks. The NABP reports at least 40,000 online pharmacies do not follow patient safety laws; and about 95% of websites are operating illegally.

**What does this mean for you?** When using online pharmacies, you don't always know who you are dealing with. The pharmacy could be in another country that doesn't have the same level of quality control that the United States does, or it could even be a fake pharmacy. You may be risking more than your health. These fake pharmacies are looking to steal your personal information which puts you at risk for medical and identity theft.

**How to order from online pharmacies:** Here are some signs to watch for:

- Is the online pharmacy licensed with a state board of pharmacy?
- Does the online pharmacy have a physical address and phone number?
- Does the online pharmacy ask for a doctor's prescription?
- Does the online pharmacy have a licensed pharmacist available to answer your questions?
- Does the online pharmacy have prices that "are too good to be true"?
- Do they state that they will not sell your personal information?

Another way to know if the online pharmacy is genuine is to use NABP's Buy Safely tool. This tool allows you to type in an online pharmacy website to see if it is supported by the NABP. The website is: [safe.pharmacy/buy-safely](https://safe.pharmacy/buy-safely). Type in the online pharmacy website address (not the pharmacy name) to do a search. You can also look for a symbol on the online pharmacy website that shows if it is NABP-accredited. The symbol resembles a vertical infinity sign (like the number 8) inside a circle and has the words "NABP Accredited Digital Pharmacy."



Before ordering online, check with your local pharmacy. Sometimes you can find prices that are just as good.

**Reporting Medicare fraud:** If you think you have spotted fraud, report it right away. ND SMP will help seniors prevent, detect and report Medicare fraud. If you see anything suspicious, contact the ND SMP at [ndsmp@minotstateu.edu](mailto:ndsmp@minotstateu.edu) or call 1-833-818-0029. For non-Medicare fraud issues, contact the ND Attorney General's Office at 1-800-472-2600.

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**North Dakota Senior Medicare Patrol Phone: 833-818-0029 or (701) 858-3580**  
For more information or to locate your SMP, visit <https://ndcpd.org/smp/>

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