

Can I purchase medications in Canada for my friends and relatives overseas?

It depends on what medication.

Non-prescription drugs, such as the ordinary cough medicines, antipyretics, painkillers can be purchased anytime without prescriptions.

Prescription drugs, such as diabetes drugs, blood pressure drugs, cholesterol drugs, etc. must be purchased with a prescription prescribed by a Canadian registered physician. In Canada, doctors can only prescribe to patients they have performed examination and diagnosis, in other words, a Canadian doctor will not prescribe a prescription medication for somebody whom he or she has not examined.



Knowing Canada has more stringent regulations for the pharmaceutical industry, a lot of new immigrants feel the quality and reliability of medications on the Canadian market is relatively better than those in their homeland. Hence, they often want to purchase some medications from Canada for their friends and relatives overseas, such as: diabetes drugs, cholesterol drugs, and even cancer drugs. A lot of them get very disappointed when they find out a lot of medications can only be purchased with prescriptions prescribed by Canada registered physician!

The idea of making a medication available only through prescription is actually to the benefit of the person taking the medication. Some medications may have impact on liver function, kidney function, and hence, may require constant monitoring by a physician. Some medications may have interactions with the person's own illness. Some medications may have interactions with other medications. Buying these medications casually without a prescription is like self-diagnosing without any medical knowledge, which may lead to serious complications. Therefore, it is always best to consult a qualified doctor to determine what medication is appropriate.

