

Online pharmacies: Fact vs. fiction

SOT

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"How we know an online pharmacy is legal is they require a prescription by a licensed practitioner. You have a pharmacist review things, and the consumer has access to a pharmacist to ask questions. Look for the outlet to be based in the United States and have a license in your state. Some online pharmacies will provide medications for patients even though they don't have a license in the patient's state." (:37)

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"In December 2025, the Food and Drug Administration warned about fake Ozempic. It looked almost identical to real Ozempic. It had lot numbers and expiration dates. But what they had done is created a syringe that looked similar and put on fake stickers. What pharmacists do then is go through and scan every medication that enters the pharmacy to ensure it's directly from the manufacturer." (:32)

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"If something is off by a decimal point, it's a tenfold error. It can cause lack of movement in your gastrointestinal tract, obstructions and gallbladder attacks. If a person isn't aware of the risks and talking to a pharmacist, they can upgrade their dose too quickly and cause more adverse effects like dehydration. Also with some of these online websites, there's not continuous monitoring by a health care provider. No labs, check-ins or follow ups." (:41)

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"The cost saving may be up front, but at the back end there may be an overall greater cost of having to see more health care providers because of adverse reactions or infections." (:21)