



CAMPAIGN
FOR PERSONAL
PRESCRIPTION
IMPORTATION

Prescription Importation Update

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CPPI Calls for a Ban on Online Opioid Sales - CPPI March 2023 E-News

Also in this Issue:

Big Pharma Loses Court Battle on Prescription Importation

Big Pharma Drives Big Price Increases to Start 2023

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[CPPI Joins Calls for Ban of Online Opioid Sales](#)



The [Campaign for Personal Prescription Importation](#) joined the [Canadian International Pharmacy Association](#) in calling for a ban on the online marketing and sale of fentanyl and other opioids.

The [Biden administration](#) on Friday proposed tighter limits on the online prescription of some medications, including the attention deficit hyperactivity disorder drug Adderall and highly addictive opioids such as oxycodone, a partial reversal of policy changes made during the

coronavirus pandemic, the New York Times reported. CPPI is calling for the Administration and Congress to go further.

"CPPI applauds the Biden administration's efforts to curtail the opioid epidemic and joins the Canadian International Pharmacy Association in calling for further action - a ban on the online marketing and sale of fentanyl and other opioids. Americans need access to safe and affordable medications, they don't need dangerous opioids or controlled substances being pushed on them," says Jack Pfeiffer, Executive Director of CPPI.

"For too long the greed of [big pharmaceutical companies](#) and [big box pharmacies](#) clawed record profits from the sale of opioids, leading to [America's opioid epidemic](#). [Rogue websites](#) pretending to be pharmacies take advantage of Big Pharma's folly and further place American patients in jeopardy by selling opioids and controlled substances online, often without a doctor's prescription. It's time to put an end to that."

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What You Should Look for in a Safe Online Pharmacy:

1. Require a valid prescription before dispensing medications;
2. Do not sell controlled substances, narcotics, pseudoephedrine products, or highly temperature sensitive products;
3. Obtain demographic and medical information and maintain a health profile with medication history to avoid adverse drug interactions;
4. Have a licensed pharmacist on staff to supervise dispensing of medications and provide consultation;
5. Protect the privacy and confidentiality of personal records and contact information;
6. Ensure website security requirements;
7. Publish contact information for customer service;
8. Sell quantities of approximately 3-months' supply at a time; and
9. Disclose dispensing location at time of purchase.

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Big Pharma loses a court battle in its bid to block states from importing drugs from Canada

In a setback to the pharmaceutical industry, a federal judge has tossed a lawsuit that sought to prevent state governments from importing medicines from Canada. CPPI warns that access to personal prescription



importation is critical for millions of American patients who depend upon it for affordable access to medications, and is pleased that personal importation was not impacted by this court ruling. In a [26-page opinion](#), U.S. District Court Judge Timothy Kelly ruled that drug companies failed to prove they would face a “concrete risk of harm” from a federal rule that would allow states to import medicines.

PhRMA the lobbying arm of the pharmaceutical industry was joined in the failed suit by the Big Pharma front groups Partnership for Safe Medicines and Council for Affordable Health Coverage.

Judge Kelly stated that any harm is only speculative because there is no guarantee the federal government will approve any state proposal. As a result, the industry did not have standing to file suit.

Personal Not Wholesale Importation Delivers the Savings Patients Need

CPPI has long warned that wholesale/state importation plans could have the [unintended consequence](#) of cutting Americans off from the licensed pharmacies on which they depend. State wholesale importation plans add pricey middlemen that cut into patients’ proposed savings.

“Americans are in dire need of affordable access to critical medications that importation can offer, but wholesale state importation is not the solution,” says Jack Pfeiffer, executive director of CPPI. “Only personal importation, which avoids use of pricey middlemen and layers of bureaucracy, can deliver the savings that Americans need, particularly those on fixed incomes.”

Americans importing prescription drugs for personal use report saving 36% more in 2021 than 2020, in survey results released today by the [Campaign for Personal Prescription Importation \(CPPI\)](#). Average annual savings increased by over \$1,000 to \$3,744 per person in 2021, up from \$2,736 in 2020, through purchases from licensed Canadian pharmacies compared to costs in the U.S. Those substantial savings offered to Americans through importation would diminish rapidly under state wholesale plans.

The state wholesale importation plans are laden with extensive requirements that add layers of bureaucracy, which would take years to implement. Moreover, there is [extensive opposition to State and tribal wholesale importation](#) programs. [Canadian regulatory](#) restrictions, federal approval, and legal challenges remain obstacles for state wholesale importation programs to become operational.

Since 2017, state legislatures across the country have taken over [120 legislative actions](#) to try to reign in high drug costs. Efforts aimed at importation programs have taken hold in six states. There is [opposition to the wholesale importation](#) pathway these states are pursuing because it would not deliver the full savings to patients, instead, programs would layer in new middlemen.

None of the State Importation Programs have been enacted as of yet. U.S. and [Canadian regulatory](#) restrictions, as well as legal challenges, remain obstacles for these state pursuits.

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[Prices Increase on 450 Drugs to Start 2023](#)

Updated: Jan 26, 2023



Over 450 U.S. drug prices increased at the start of 2023. Millions of Americans struggle to afford prescription medication costs; and while the recently passed Inflation Reduction Act appears limited in its ability to deliver affordable prices, personal prescription importation remains a lifeline for patients to access critical daily medications at prices 50-90% lower than in the U.S.

There has been a 5% median increase in the wholesale acquisition cost (WAC) of brand name drugs so far in 2023, according to data and analysis from non-profit [46brooklyn](#).

- Over 1,800 drugs saw increases to their list price, or wholesale acquisition cost, since Dec. 1, 2022, about the same number that did during the same period in 2021.
- Pfizer alone raised list prices on more than 90 of its drugs, including 8% increases for cancer treatments Ibrance and Xalkori.

- Among other notable drugs with large list price increases were the CAR-T cancer treatments Abecma and Breyanzi, the prices of which Bristol Myers raised by 9%, and COVID-19 antiviral Veklury, which Gilead hiked the price of by 10%.
- Over just the last year, prescription drug prices rose at an average rate of 31.6%, with some increasing up to 500%, according to a recent [Department of Health and Human Services government report](#).

Checkout wholesale acquisition cost increases for brand drugs through the [interactive tool at Brooklyn46](#):

Stat Box #8: WAC Changes on Top Medicaid Brand Name Drugs				
Choose Year				
2023				
Brand Product	Drugmaker	Date	PY Medicaid Spend	CY Price Change*
ABECMA Suspension for Injection	Suspension for injection	Bristol Myers Squibb Co	1/1/2023	9.0%
Abelcet Suspension for injection		Leadiant Biosciences, Inc. form..	Null	\$34,697
Abilify Maintena Powder for suspension for injection, Ext..		Otsuka America Pharmaceutic..	1/15/2023	\$140,146,756
Abilify MyCite Maintenance Kit Oral tablet with sensor		Otsuka America Pharmaceutic..	1/15/2023	3.0%
Abilify MyCite Oral tablet with sensor		Otsuka America Pharmaceutic..	1/15/2023	3.0%
Abilify Oral tablet		Otsuka America Pharmaceutic..	Null	\$1,886,271
Abraxane Powder for suspension for injection		Celgene Corporation Div Bristo..	Null	\$6,603,260
Absorica LD Oral capsule		Ranbaxy Laboratories, a Sun P..	Null	\$606,107
Absorica Oral capsule		Ranbaxy Laboratories, a Sun P..	Null	\$286,087

* On 1/23/2023, CY Price Change in Stat Box #8 was modified to reflect the product level price change (and not a cumulative impact across the various underlying NDCs)

Yes, There is a Way to Afford Medications

Personal importation of lower-priced prescription drugs from other countries is the solution for [as many as 8%](#) of American households. Americans who are sick and tired of paying the highest prices in the world for prescription drugs can find prices [two to three times less](#) (50-90% cheaper) in other countries. Learn more at [personalimportation.org](#).

How Bad Is It?

Americans' access to critical medications has been recklessly stripped away for more than two decades as U.S. drug price increases outpaced inflation and price increases in every other consumer product industry. The consequences for many are dire -- [nearly three in 10 adults](#) end up skipping doses, cutting pills in half, or not filling their prescription, resulting in long-term health complications. Almost a third of the US adult population, including those with insurance, can't take their prescriptions because they can't afford them.

Will the Inflation Reduction Act Help?

Unfortunately, big pharmaceutical companies appear prepared to skirt the cost-saving measures of the [Inflation Reduction Act](#) by simply introducing new drugs at [outrageously high prices](#) rather than depending on annual price hikes, as is playing out in the cases of \$3.5 million for [CSL](#) Ltd.'s Hemgenix, a treatment for the blood disorder hemophilia B and [Biogen's](#) newly approved Alzheimer medicine Aduhelm at \$56,000 per year. The median annual price of 13 novel drugs approved for chronic conditions by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in 2022 was [\\$257,000](#). [Reuters found](#).

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5 Quick Ways You Can Take Action:

1. Let Congress know how this issue impacts you [HERE](#)
2. Sign up to receive CPPI communications [HERE](#)
3. Share your story to help inform decision makers on the real impact of high drug prices [HERE](#)
4. Join our Action Committee and get more involved by emailing us at info@personalimportation.org
5. Follow us on [Twitter](#) & [Facebook](#) so you can see the latest news on this important issue



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About the Campaign for Personal Prescription Importation

CPPI is a national nonprofit patient advocacy organization that fights for Americans' access to safe, affordable prescription medications from Canada for personal use. Tens of millions of Americans – especially the elderly and others on fixed incomes – struggle to pay the extremely high price of prescription medications in the U.S. We are here to be their voice.

Millions of Americans use licensed Canadian pharmacies annually, to purchase their daily prescription medications at an affordable price. We believe that all Americans have a right to affordable medications. It is time to change the current U.S. policy on this issue to provide immediate access to life-saving medications, taken daily for chronic health conditions, at affordable prices.

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