

LIFESTYLE LESSONS



Personal risk management tips provided by: Peabody Insurance Agency

Did You Know?

Where you once had to receive medication from a pharmacist in person, the Web now allows consumers to point and click to fill their drug prescriptions. However, consumers should be wary of purchasing medication online, as the Web has also created a marketplace for unapproved medications and illegal prescribing.

PURCHASING MEDICATIONS ONLINE

Since many medication websites are not reputable, here are some cautions about untrustworthy online pharmacies:

- The website may not be a U.S. licensed pharmacy, or it may not be a pharmacy at all.
- Many diagnoses are incorrect because the person on the “other end” cannot speak with you and diagnose you in person.
- You could be sold medication that is not helpful to your health condition.
- The site may not protect your personal and financial information.
- The following tips will help you to identify whether an online pharmacy is safe to use:
 - Contact your state board of pharmacies to determine if the site is a state-licensed pharmacy.
 - Look for the “Verified Internet Pharmacy Practice Sites Seal” on the website or visit www.nabp.net/programs/accreditation/vipps/.
 - Make sure the website requires a prescription from your health care provider before providing the medication.

Healthy Hints

Some medications sold online are counterfeit, of incorrect strength or expired; contain dangerous ingredients; are not FDA approved; or are unsafe to use with other medications you are taking.