



CPhA POSITION STATEMENT

Cross-Border Prescription Drug Trade

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- The Canadian Pharmacists Association (CPhA) opposes the cross-border prescription drug trade based upon our concerns of the negative impact of this trade on Canadians, including access to quality care, access to prescription drugs and the threat to drug prices in Canada. The health and safety of patients is the overriding principle upon which this position is based.
- CPhA believes that face-to-face communication between patients and pharmacists builds a relationship that is critical to the optimal management of drug therapy and is a key element of the expanded role of pharmacists on the primary health care team. CPhA opposes cross-border prescription sales where the patient does not have a relationship with the Canadian pharmacist and prescriber because patient care may be compromised. A relationship between the patient and the pharmacist is essential for medication management and to ensure that patients understand how to use their drugs safely and effectively. Pharmacists need to practice in a setting that allows them to assess and advise on the appropriate, effective and safe use of pharmaceuticals based on the patient's medication history and other relevant information.
- CPhA encourages the federal government to explore options for action on the National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities' call on the government to ban exporting of drugs from Canadian pharmacies to citizens of other countries until such time as governments can implement systems that will ensure the effective regulation of these practices to protect public safety.
- CPhA supports the position of the Canadian Medical Association in its Statement on Internet Prescribing which states

"It is incumbent upon the physician to obtain an adequate history and perform an appropriate physical examination to reach a diagnosis which will ensure that the prescribed medications are appropriate. It is not acceptable for a physician to sign a prescription without properly assessing the patient".

- CPhA endorses the position that all pharmacies operating in Canada, including those that provide distance dispensing or offer prescription drug services over the Internet, must comply with federal/provincial/territorial legal and regulatory requirements as well as meet established standards of practice for patient care and dispensing.