



# Filling Prescriptions Abroad

Should Americans be allowed to buy cheaper prescription drugs from other countries?

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Americans struggling with the rising cost of prescription drugs are increasingly -- and illegally -- buying from pharmacies in countries, such as Canada, that regulate drug prices. Despite federal officials' safety concerns, some states and local governments propose legalizing these purchases, while others favor implementing similar cost-saving measures for local government employees.

**TOP STORY**

## Importation Debate Raises Drug Pricing, Safety Questions

March 9, 2004

### Two Pricing Systems

As the controversy over legalizing drug importation heats up, policy-makers are paying increased attention to the factors that keep Canadian drug prices lower than those in the United States.

### The Safety Question

*Coming Soon:* As more Americans buy drugs from Canadian Internet pharmacies, the U.S. government and pharmaceutical companies are warning consumers that this practice may



endanger their health.

**Extended Interviews:**

- ▶ [A Canadian drug pricing expert](#) shares insights on how drugs are priced in Canada.
- ▶ [The FDA commissioner](#) explains the risks of buying from Canadian Internet pharmacies.
- ▶ [The Illinois governor](#) discusses his efforts to pressure the FDA to allow importation from Canada.
- ▶ [Pfizer's CEO](#) defends his company's opposition to drug importation.

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

**Prescription Prognosis**

KAET in Arizona reports on people bypassing Canada and instead buying drugs from Mexico.

**The Other Drug War**

PBS's Frontline asks why drugs are so expensive in the United States?

**OTHER RECENT NEWS**

### Illinois Residents Sue FDA as Importation Debate Heats Up

February 26, 2004

Update: The governor of Illinois Thursday backed a lawsuit against the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to overturn the ban on buying prescription drugs from Canada.

### Illinois to Request Waiver to Buy Drugs from Canada

December 22, 2003

Update: Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich announced Monday he would ask the federal government for a waiver granting his state permission to purchase prescription drugs from Canada.



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