



Internet Drug Outlet Identification Program

The Internet Drug Outlet Identification program, launched in May 2008, establishes a much needed comprehensive database of Internet sites involved in the distribution and dispensing of prescription drugs with the primary objective of protecting the public health.

To assist patients in protecting themselves from rogue drug outlets, the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy® (NABP®) posts on its Web site a list of Not Recommended Internet drug outlets that appear to be out of compliance with state and federal laws or NABP patient safety and pharmacy practice standards. In addition, patients are provided a list of Recommended Internet pharmacies that have demonstrated their adherence to legal and professional operating standards by becoming accredited through the Verified Internet Pharmacy Practice Site^{CM} (VIPPS^{CM}) program. VIPPS-accredited pharmacies are appropriately licensed and have successfully completed a 19-point-criteria review and on-site inspection. NABP also posts on its Web site information to educate patients on the potential dangers of buying prescription medications over the Internet and from foreign pharmacies, and how to identify rogue sites. The Association reports its findings to state and federal enforcement authorities to assist in their efforts to shut down rogue operations.



Internet Drug Outlet Identification Criteria

Internet drug outlets listed as Not Recommended on the NABP Web site appear to be out of compliance with state and federal laws or NABP patient safety and pharmacy practice standards. For instance, many of these sites:

- Do not require a valid prescription
- Issue prescriptions based only upon an online questionnaire
- Are based outside of the United States
- Offer foreign or non-FDA-approved drugs
- Do not provide a secure Web site that safeguards patient medical and financial information
- Do not offer a consultation with a pharmacist

Internet Drug Outlet Identification Program Benefits

- The information provided in the Buying Medicine Online section of the NABP Web site, *www.nabp.net*, is designed to empower patients to make informed choices about buying medicine online.
- NABP is the best source for this information because of its unparalleled data banks regarding state licensure of pharmacies, pharmacists, technicians, and wholesale distributors, and its experience in the regulation of pharmacy practice.
- NABP is committed to continuing collaboration with federal agencies and other stakeholders to educate the public and health care professionals of the dangers of acquiring drugs illegally through the Internet and from foreign sources.