



MYTH:

“WE ARE GETTING THE SAME DRUGS CANADIANS TAKE.”

Testing proves they are not getting the same medicine. They are risking ineffective and dangerous drugs from other countries.

From 2013 until 2015, Maine law allowed the importation of foreign prescription drugs from online "pharmacies" associated with licensed retail pharmacies in Canada, the U.K., Australia and New Zealand, exclusively.

However, the cost savings came with some surprising results.



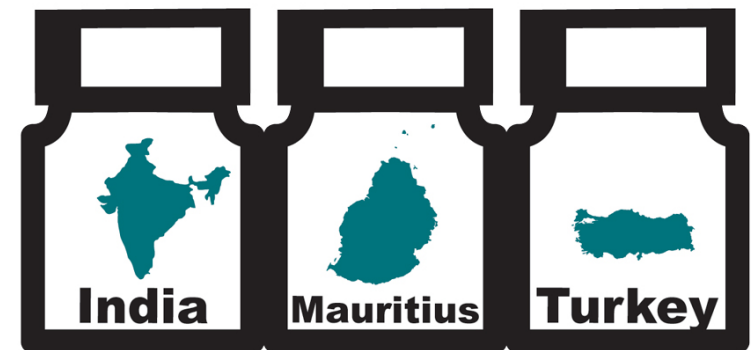
University of New England Professor Kenneth McCall tested three widely used medications from one of these pharmacy websites. He ordered drugs that are available in brand name and generic in the U.S., and received:



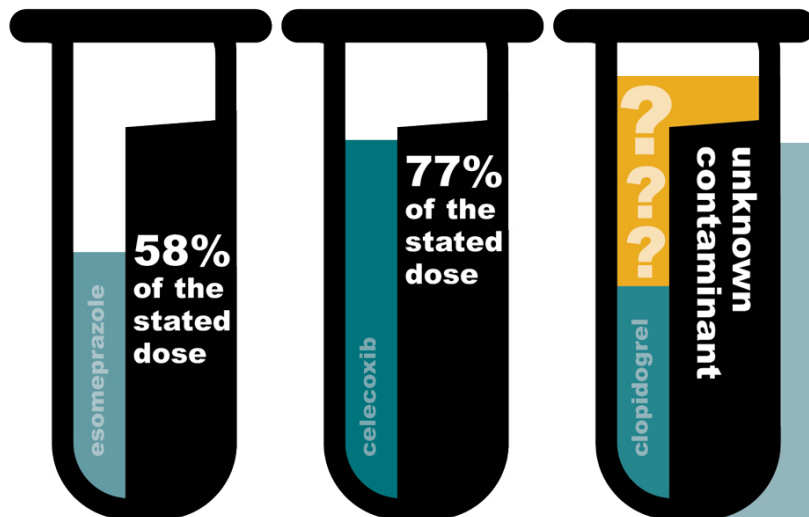
- A non-FDA approved generic of Nexium, **esomeprazole** (which treats acid reflux disease)
- A non-FDA approved generic of Celebrex, **celecoxib** (an anti-inflammatory)
- A non-FDA approved generic of Plavix, **clopidogrel** (a blood thinner)

The medicines McCall received came from India, Mauritius and Turkey and none of them were approved medicines in the U.S. or Canada. His tests showed: the esomeprazole was only 58% of the stated dose, the celecoxib was only 77% of the stated dose, and the clopidogrel contained an unknown contaminant. Portland's WGME News performed the same experiment with similar results.

INSTEAD OF COMING FROM
CANADA'S DRUG SUPPLY,
THESE CAME FROM . . .



ON TESTING THEM, HE FOUND:



What happens if patients take black market medicine that is weaker than the stated dose?

Treatment will be ineffective and potentially dangerous. Patients with chronic illnesses such as diabetes and hypertension may get sicker as doses vary between unregulated batches of medicine. Their doctors may presume that treatment is ineffective for that patient instead of realizing that their imported medication is unreliable. When patients take substandard medicines they could suffer serious harm.

Because the medications come from foreign sources not supervised by the FDA, patients have no legal protection when they receive dangerous or ineffective drugs.



- **The online "pharmacy" was NOT licensed and does NOT dispense prescriptions to Canadians.**
- **None of the 4 prescriptions from these websites were manufactured, approved for use or filled in Canada.**
- **All 4 prescriptions were unapproved FDA products.**