

Buying Drugs Abroad

“Smart Shopping: Buy the least expensive alternative therapy for common heartburn.”

Some consumers have turned to Internet pharmacies based in Canada to lower their drug bills.¹⁰⁰ However, due to the problems consumers may encounter in purchasing drugs from out-of-country Web sites, these purchases may not be a bargain.

How to Save 85 Percent on a Heartburn Drug

(Prices for 100 Doses)

<u>Nexium 20mg</u>	<u>Cost of 100 doses</u>	
RxUSA (buying 30 tablets at a time)	\$419.83	} Comparison Shopping Savings: 8%
Costco.com (buying 100 tablets at a time)	\$402.67	
Drugstore.com (buying 90 tablets at a time)	\$385.52	
		} Therapeutic Substitute in a generic form Savings: 41%
<u>Omeprazole (generic) 20 mg</u>		
RxUSA (buying 100 tablets at a time)	\$300.00	} More Comparison Shopping Savings: 43%
Walgreens (buying 30 tablets at a time)	\$426.63	
Drugstore.com (buying 90 tablets at a time)	\$319.99	
Eckerd (buying 100 tablets at a time)	\$246.50	
<u>Prilosec OTC 20 mg</u>		} OTC Savings: 75%
Drugstore.com (buying 42 tablets at a time)	\$62.62	

Combining all of these methods, a consumer prescribed a heartburn drug can save as much as 85 percent.

Comparison Shopping for the Lowest-Price Brand-Name Drug: By shopping for the best price and quantity, a consumer can save more than 8 percent off the price of the branded drug Nexium.

Substituting a Generic: A therapeutic substitute in generic form from the same class versus the brand name Nexium would save almost 41 percent.

Shopping for the Lowest Price for Generic Drug: A consumer can save 43 percent off the price of the generic equivalent Omeprazole.

Switching: Switching to the OTC version of the generic drug Omprazole would save an additional 75 percent.