

## THE ISSUE:

Because no prescription is necessary to purchase over-the-counter medication, many people incorrectly think that these medicines are without risk.



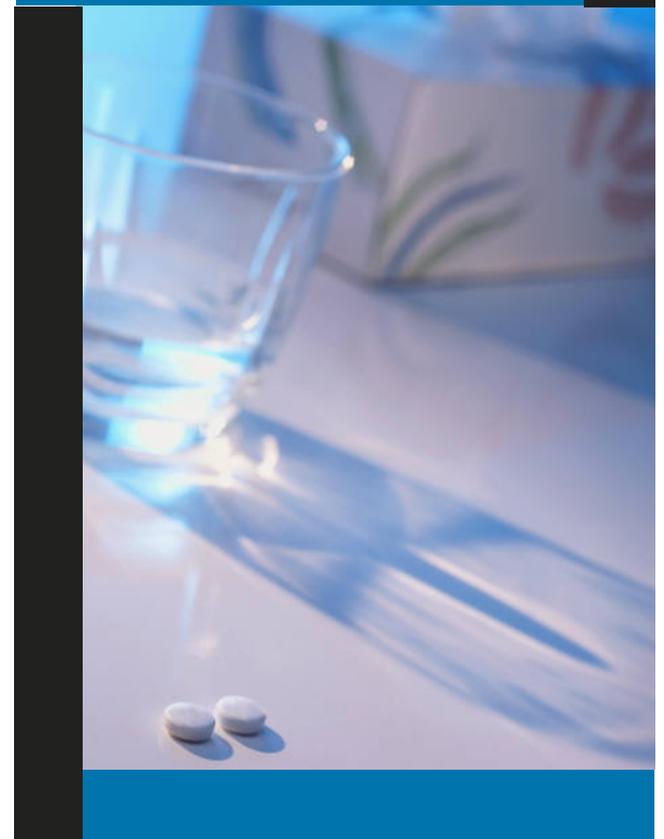
For more information, including specific drug interactions that may affect you or someone you know, please talk to your pharmacist.



*This information was created as a public service by the South Carolina Pharmacy Association and distributed by your local pharmacist.*

## Over-The-Counter Medication Safety

JUST BECAUSE  
SOMETHING IS  
“OTC” DOESN'T  
MEAN IT IS “A OK”



## OTC Safety

Many common illnesses and symptoms can be managed through the use of over-the-counter (OTC) medications. OTC medications include pain relievers, cough medicines, and even vitamins. While these can be very helpful, many people make the mistake of believing that there are no dangers in taking these medications.

OTC drugs can pose serious health risks when not taken properly or when taken with certain prescription medications. OTC medications can result in negative drug interactions, such as unwanted side effects. Some interactions may increase or decrease how well the medication works.



## Common Drug Interactions to Avoid

*The following drug interactions could result in negative side effects, reactions, or even fatalities.*

- Taking antihistamines with sedatives or tranquilizers
- Cough medicines with sedatives or tranquilizers
- Laxatives with stomach pain, or nausea
- Nasal decongestants with high blood pressure
- Sleep aids with sedatives or tranquilizers
- Pain relievers when drinking alcohol or taking other prescription pain relievers

Source: [www.aetnapharmacy.com](http://www.aetnapharmacy.com)

## Ask Your Pharmacist

Before taking any over the counter product it is very important to talk to your doctor or pharmacist. Make sure you tell them all prescription and over the counter medications.



***Know Your Medicine. Know Your Pharmacist.***