

Synvisc Treatment Can Be Legally Imported from Canada.

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By Elena Evans

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Montreal, Quebec (AffordableDrugs) December 11, 2004 - Synvisc, the popular treatment for osteoarthritis, can be legally imported from Canada. The common belief in the United States is that Synvisc falls under the same category as prescription drugs and cannot be legally imported. However this is not true as under FDA (Food and Drug Administration) regulations Synvisc is classified differently and can be imported legally.

Synvisc is a popular treatment that can only be given by a trained specialist to help people suffering from osteoarthritis. It is injected into the knee of the patient to help relieve the pain of osteoarthritis. Many American doctors and care specialists are unaware that it is not illegal to import Synvisc from Canada. However, since April 2004, Synvisc is classified as a "Medical Device". FDA regulations state that medical devices do not fall under the same guidelines as normal prescription medications. In the FDA guidelines under Subchapter H—Medical Devices In Part 807, Subpart D—Exemptions, Section 807.65 it states the following: i) Persons who dispense devices to the ultimate consumer or whose major responsibility is to render a service necessary to provide the consumer (i.e., patient, physician, layman, etc.) with a device or the benefits to be derived from the use of a device; for example, a hearing aid dispenser, optician, clinical laboratory, assembler of diagnostic x-ray systems, and personnel from a hospital, clinic, dental laboratory, orthotic or prosthetic retail facility, whose primary responsibility to the ultimate consumer is to dispense or provide a service through the use of a previously manufactured device. This means that specialists that dispense the Synvisc treatment benefit from an exemption that allows the legal importation of this treatment.

As stated by the FDA regulation Synvisc is classified differently than regular medications. Synvisc can be imported legally from Canada at a greatly discounted price. It is currently available from AffordableDrugs at a price much lower than anywhere in the United States.

Synvisc is developed and manufactured by Genzyme Biosurgery and Synvisc is a registered trademark of Genzyme Corporation.

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AffordableDrugs is one of the leading international online pharmacies, based in Canada. We provide thousands of Americans with discount online drugs through our network of licensed Canadian pharmacies. We beat the prices of US drug stores and other Canadian online pharmacies.

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By Prescription Drug Web Guide

For a long time, Americans who are increasingly facing low supplies and high costs have been heading north to purchase their prescription drugs at stores in Canada. The volume of business is expected to be millions of prescriptions filled every year. And during recent elections, many candidates ran on platforms seeking to legalize the practice that many citizens are engaging in whether it is illegal or not.

To combat both the election hopefuls and the United States citizens who are currently ignoring the pricy prescription drugs on American shelves, the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America is claiming that many imported drugs are unsafe. There is more evidence to the contrary, however.

Many of the prescription drugs that are available on American pharmacy shelves quite legally, are already manufactured in and shipped from foreign countries. This is counter to the PRMA's assertions that imported drugs are unfit or dangerous. Many industry insiders agree that the association is representing solely the interests of American pharmaceutical companies, who directly benefit from inflated drug prices. Like many other countries, Canada's prescription drugs, like the prescription drugs of every industrialized nation with the exception of the United States, are kept relatively inexpensive due to price controls.

The FDA is in step with the PRMA, although it is similarly vague in assertions that buying prescription drugs in Canada is dangerous. In an interview with Kiplinger's, William Hubbard, the FDA's associate commissioner for policy and learning, stated "We know there are good drugs and bad drugs in Canada, but we can't tell you which ones are which."

The fact is, most Canadian prescription drugs are not FDA approved, however Canadian food and drug standards are comparable to those of the United States', and the argument that Canadian prescription drugs are unsafe, remains fairly unsupported. So far, the stream of American buyers seems to indicate the belief that buying prescription drugs from a reputable Canadian drug store is only dangerous to the

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large American pharmaceutical companies who have a vested interest in keeping drug prices high.



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