

A Dispensing Pharmacy's Overview of PharmacyChecker Accreditation

The PC IPVP

The PharmacyChecker (PC) International Pharmacy Verification Program (IPVP) was established in 2003 with a mission to protect public health across the globe by helping patient-consumers, their caregivers, and clinicians find information about safe online pharmacies that sell affordable medicines.

What is an accredited dispensing pharmacy?

A dispensing pharmacy is licensed to sell pharmaceuticals and dispenses medications to individual patients pursuant to a valid prescription. PharmacyChecker Accreditation is required for dispensing pharmacies that fill prescriptions for online pharmacies participating in the PC IPVP.

A **Tier 1 dispensing pharmacy** operates in a country overseen by an advanced regulatory authority, such as those dispensing pharmacies located in the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, the UK, EU, or other accepted countries. They may ship domestically and/or internationally.

A **Tier 2 dispensing pharmacy** operates in a country without advanced regulatory authority oversight, such as those pharmacies located in India, Mauritius, or free trade zones. They may ship domestically and/or internationally.

Key Requirements

Dispensing pharmacies that adhere to PC Standards and Policies play a key role in safe dispensing of legitimate medications, reducing counterfeit risks. Their compliance ensures best pharmacy practices and safety protocols, leading to better health outcomes for patients.

Accredited dispensing pharmacies must demonstrate compliance with all applicable PC IPVP policies, including:

✓ VALID PRESCRIPTION

- The prescription is a result of an evaluation by a licensed clinician authorized to prescribe.
- A logical connection exists between the medical complaint, medical history, clinician's assessment, and the medicine prescribed.

✓ CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

- Dispensing pharmacies cannot market or sell controlled substances across international borders.
- Pharmacies that market or sell controlled substances domestically must comply with all national and sub-national laws regarding controlled substances.

✓ DRUG QUALITY

- Medications must be ethically promoted by global manufacturers and come from licensed wholesale suppliers.
- Pharmacies must ensure high standards of proper storage of safe and quality medication products.
- In countries without advanced regulatory oversight, pharmacies must only dispense medications approved by global manufacturers with verified quality standards.

✓ PATIENT SAFETY

- Pharmacies must protect patients' health and financial information.
- Pharmacists must be licensed, and their competency must be regularly assessed.
- Pharmacies must properly dispense medications in compliance with applicable regulations.
- Pharmacists must clinically evaluate the appropriateness of prescriptions and perform drug utilization reviews (DURs) before dispensing to patients.

The above is only a shortlist of requirements of dispensing pharmacies in the PC IPVP. Before applying, please carefully review the terms in the documents below:

- [Accreditation Standards & Guide](#) — Details best practices & standards with policy references
- [Guidance Policies](#) — Provides additional details to standards that reference policies
- [Accreditation Agreement](#) — An agreement to adhere to Accreditation Standards

Benefits of PharmacyChecker Accreditation

PharmacyChecker accreditation provides dispensing pharmacies with clear advantages.



Credibility

PharmacyChecker accreditation enhances credibility, providing pharmacies with a mark of quality that assures partners and consumers of compliance with high standards.



Stand Out

In a competitive landscape, PharmacyChecker accreditation sets your business apart, making it a compelling choice for prescription referral websites seeking reliable suppliers.



Partner Access

Accreditation opens doors to partnerships and contracts through the **PharmacyChecker Network**, connecting pharmacies with websites that prioritize quality and compliance.



Compliance

PharmacyChecker accreditation aligns with industry regulations, enhancing operational resilience and reducing liability.



Confidence

PharmacyChecker accreditation serves as a powerful marketing tool best displayed through the **PharmacyChecker Seal**, reinforcing your brand as a trustworthy pharmacy.



Quality Commitment

The rigorous accreditation process underscores a commitment to quality and safety, helping pharmacies identify improvement areas and ensure patient safety.



Supply Transparency

Accreditation fosters transparency in the supply chain, building long-term relationships with prescription referral websites who value accountability and quality control.

What is the PC Network?

The PC Network includes contact information of accredited online pharmacies and wholesalers that have also opted into sharing their information, with locations across the globe, including those in the United States, Canada, Australia, India, Mauritius, New Zealand, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, and the United Kingdom.

What is the PharmacyChecker Seal?

The PharmacyChecker Seal, displayed on websites and/or other marketing materials, represents the accreditation and continuous monitoring of a dispensing pharmacy that has been verified to process and dispense prescription drugs. It shows potential clients that they are dealing with a reputable dispensing facility. The PharmacyChecker Seal also allows a dispensing pharmacy to showcase dedication and compliance with PC IPVP policies, connecting online pharmacies, dispensing pharmacies, and wholesalers with an international chain of partners committed to patient safety.



Choose Your PC IPVP Participation

The below pricing is for dispensing pharmacy participation only. Should a Company wish to apply with an e-Commerce website, the Company must first apply for Dispensing Pharmacy participation and then also apply as an Online Pharmacy participant.

Tier 1 Dispensing Pharmacy

Dispensing Facility

For pharmacies located in countries with advanced regulatory oversight, such as Canada, the UK, Australia, New Zealand, the US – are not subject to onsite inspections.

\$672 application fee

\$ 199 /month

once approved
(or \$2,388 annually)

[Apply Now](#)

Tier 2 Dispensing Pharmacy

Dispensing Facility

For pharmacies located in countries without advanced regulatory authority oversight, such as India, Mauritius, and free zones.

\$672 application fee

\$ 199 /month

verification fees once approved

\$ 4,789 /year

onsite inspection fee*

Estimate of annual investment: \$8,000*

[Apply Now](#)

*Onsite inspections of Tier 2 dispensing pharmacies are conducted annually or every 18 months, depending on location, and often carry additional fees tied to PC IPVP travel expenses.. Please consult the [PharmacyChecker Fee Schedule](#).

Understanding Cold-Chain Certification

Cold-chain certification via [Policy 16-03 International Shipment of Refrigerated Medications: Cold-Chain Certification Requirements](#) allows Tier 1 pharmacies to internationally ship refrigerated medications.

To be eligible for Cold-Chain Certification, a Dispensing Pharmacy must:

- Hold current PharmacyChecker accreditation as a Tier 1 Dispensing Pharmacy participant
- Submit a compliant SOP
- Successfully complete a Cold-Chain Certification test with two Demonstration Shipments for each shipping method to be used
- Provide all required documentation.

Cold-Chain Certification must be renewed semiannually. Continued certification is contingent upon ongoing compliance with this policy, including completion of any audit or Demonstration Shipment requirements arising during the certification period.

The fee for cold-chain shipping certification application is \$710, covering two (2) test shipments.

Additional shipments cost \$355 each as the pharmacy refines their methods.

After successfully passing the application test, the monthly fee to maintain cold-chain certification is \$118, covering two (2) summer and two (2) winter test shipments annually to ensure ongoing compliance with cold-chain standards.

This investment supports consistent quality and integrity in medication shipping. Please consult the [PharmacyChecker Fee Schedule](#).

Next Steps: Awaiting Application Review

Once you submit your application, PharmacyChecker will assess your answers and associated documentation, including verifying licenses and compliance with practice standards.

Use the [Participant Portal Guide](#) to help you complete necessary audits in your [Participant Portal](#).

An application to the PC IPVP does not guarantee accreditation in the PC IPVP. Ultimately, a dispensing facility is only accredited in the PC IPVP if they meet and maintain the strict requirements of PC IPVP Accreditation Standards and Policies.

If an applicant is not cooperative with the compliance process and fails to demonstrate timely communication within three months from submitting their application, the dispensing pharmacy applicant has options:

- The application is withdrawn.
- The dispensing pharmacy pays an additional fee to continue the PC IPVP application process.

The PC IPVP encourages active applicants to reach out to the compliance team with any questions, concerns, or documentation throughout the application process. Following approval, accredited dispensing facilities will enjoy Priority Access to the PC IPVP team. Tier 1 dispensing pharmacies also have the option to apply for cold-chain certification and receive approval to dispense refrigerated products across international borders.

PharmacyChecker

A Globally Trusted Resource for Pharmacy Verification

PharmacyChecker is a trusted platform, recognized both in the U.S. and internationally, for verifying international online pharmacies and comparing prescription drug prices. PharmacyChecker helps people find the lowest prices on prescription medication among licensed pharmacies located across the globe, and the company plays a crucial advocacy role in promoting access to affordable medications and supporting consumer rights.

PharmacyChecker has wide recognition in the U.S. and internationally, in patient advocacy circles, academic publications, and popular media, as a critical service for patients looking on the internet to afford lawfully manufactured and properly dispensed medicines. PharmacyChecker is frequently cited and recommended by popular and well-respected media channels, including PBS, AARP, CNN, The New York Times, National Public Radio, and the Wall Street Journal. JAMA, a peer-reviewed medical journal published by the American Medical Association, recommends that patients and clinicians use PharmacyChecker "to compare prices at trusted online pharmacies."

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