

The following is based on open-source reporting.

April 4, 2015

Summary

In packing for a trip overseas of any duration, some travelers must consider how to handle health conditions that require medication. While most over-the-counter medication can be taken across national boundaries, some cannot. Most prescription drugs, particularly habit-forming and narcotics, require additional consideration.

Commonly prescribed medications in the United States could be unlicensed or controlled substances in other countries. Failing to follow specific guidance may result in confiscation, which could impact medical treatment, or stiff penalties, including imprisonment on charges for drug trafficking, with no available recourse from the U.S. government. Countries have different rules and regulations about the types of medicine allowed to be brought into the country and the maximum amount the traveler can bring. Please be sure to check Travel.state.gov before you start your trip.

Case Studies

On February 20, 2015, a U.S. citizen was [arrested](#) and incarcerated in Nagoya, Japan, for shipping a three-month supply of prescription Adderall from South Korea to Japan. Adderall, an amphetamine, is illegal in Japan, as is Ritalin; both are stimulants used widely in the U.S. to counteract ADHD. The citizen also ran afoul for repackaging her prescription from the original container, in an alleged attempt to maintain privacy and avoid stigmatization from her disorder. She was [4\(ac\)-e51\(an\)8has-e51\(d\)\] TJ ET EMC /P <</MO](#) - and diplomatic-level lobbying. For information on bringing medication into Japan, please [visit the Japanese Consulate in Seattle](#) or [the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo](#). Many countries require a license prior to arrival.

The [UAE](#) has strict narcotics laws that have landed many travelers in [prison](#): [38 S WR WKUHH PRQWKV V RI D SUHVFULSWLRQ LWHP FDQ EH EURXJKW LQWR WKH FRXQWU E D WKH FDQ SURGXFH D GRFWRU](#) [Original Prescription. Narcotics can only be brought into the UAE in exceptional cases with prior permission from the director of medicine and \[SKDUPDF FRQWURO 9LVLWRUV VKRXOG FRQWDFW WKH 0LQLVWU RI\]\(#\)](#) whether their medication is on the controlled list, and needs prior permission for importation.

Having as little as three grams of [morphine](#) in Singapore is sufficient for a death sentence. Similarly, drug offense convictions result in the death penalty in [Turkey](#), [Egypt](#), [Malaysia](#), [Indonesia](#), and [Thailand](#). Malaysia, Singapore, Iran, and Saudi Arabia can impose judicially

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international destination. Careful consideration should be taken for groups of travelers who maintain a [collective](#) first aid kit that includes an epi-Pen not prescribed to one individual, particularly if an administrator has not been trained to use the device. Ideally, only those to whom the device has been prescribed should self-administer in case of an emergency; otherwise local laws

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