

# Buying medicines in Finland

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This summary has been drawn up for refugees and asylum seekers, who do not have a Finnish personal identity code.

## Where can you buy medicines?

In Finland, you get medicines only from a pharmacy. Medicines are prescription medicines or over-the-counter medicines. Prescription medicines are medicines that a doctor prescribes to you.

You can get prescription medicines from the pharmacy only when you present the patient instructions that your doctor has printed for you on paper.

Sometimes you do not have to pay the prescription medicine yourself. The state may pay it for you.

For example, if you live in a reception centre, you can get a payment commitment for prescription medicines, if necessary.

You do not need a prescription when you buy over-the-counter medicines.

You can buy over-the-counter medicines only from a pharmacy. Ordinary shops do not sell them.

For example, some painkillers and pharmaceutical creams are over-the-counter medicines.

You can also buy medical supplies such as dressings and thermometers at the pharmacy.

You have to pay over-the-counter medicines and medical supplies yourself.

## Acting on behalf of another person

Another person can pick up a prescription medicine from the pharmacy on your behalf.

Picking up prescription medicines on your behalf is possible if the other person brings with them your patient instructions on paper. If you are acting on behalf of another person, you must prove your identity.

## The pharmacy gives you advice on the use of medicines

The pharmacy will advise you on how to take medicines and how to use medical supplies.

The instructions for over-the-counter medicines are in the package. A prescription medicine package has a sticker on it with the doctor's instructions for taking the medicine.

## What does generic substitution mean?

The pharmacy will tell you if it has a similar medicine made by a different manufacturer that is cheaper.

You can get this medicine from the pharmacy if your doctor has not prohibited the change.

The similar medicine by the different manufacturer contains the same amount of the same active substance.

Generic substitution is safe.

**Medicinal treatment will succeed best when you understand matters related to your treatment. Don't hesitate to ask your doctor or the pharmacy staff.**



LUOTETTAVAN  
LÄÄKETIEDON  
PUOLESTA  
Lääkeinformaatioverkosto