

Ability for seafarers to renew prescriptions

Country	Notes
Algeria	Electronic prescriptions for life saving or recurrent medicines for foreign seafarers are accepted, except narcotic medicines which require the presence of a doctor on board the vessel.
Australia	No problem, ring a doctor's surgery and book a phone discussion with a doctor for a prescription. The Shipping Agent could organise this and the Seafarer would only need to provide an electronic or paper copy of a prescription from a previous doctor to access relevant medication. There will be complications if the vessel has not served 14 day isolation.
Belgium	Need to have a prescription from a Doctor. Cannot issue electronic prescriptions for people not registered in their health system but in every port pharmacists and doctors are collaborating to deliver necessary medicines on board for seafarers.
Brazil	There is no need for prescriptions to buy the medicine. If seafarers have a previous medical prescription, it helps to renew but even without a prescription, at the seafarer's request through the Captain, request the representative agent in the port, who will provide and send medicine on board without problems.
Bulgaria	Depends on the internal rules for each pharmacy. Special medicines are under restriction but in general should not be a problem to access for a life threatening condition.
Canada	Seafarers prescriptions that expire during the voyage will be renewed. Some prescriptions can be rolled over, others may require an exam. Diabetes for example is one they want to be careful with. Prescriptions are prepared by the Mariners Clinic and can be delivered to ships. Video conferencing available with seafarers in to reduce visits to the doctors.
Chile	Must have a medic/doctor's prescription. Some medications don't need a prescription in Chile, such as medicine for high pressure, blood sugar, etc which can be bought in any pharmacy. The local agent takes the patient to a doctor to prescribe the medication to buy. If documents are from somewhere else they must be stamped and signed by a doctor to be accepted.
China	The seafarer should ask the labour supply country to liaise with the Chinese authorities to assist with the provision of medication
Colombia	If a crew member needs recurrent medicines it should not be a problem but it is a priority to receive electronic prescriptions in advance for the procedures required by the Port Health before arrival of the vessel.
Cyprus	Prescription renewals are covered under the current protocol/policy covering Medical Emergencies. The company or agent must advise the authorities (Cyprus Ports Authority and Public Health Services) in order to arrange for safe transportation of the seafarer, from the ship to the doctor and vice versa, applying all health and safety protocols currently in force. Similar requests can be made through the Cyprus Search and Rescue Co-ordination Centre.
Denmark	Must have a doctor's prescription, Danish seafarers doctor can prescribe electronically to delivery at any pharmacy in Denmark. <a href="http://www.medicaloffice.dk">www.medicaloffice.dk</a> can assist.
Finland	Electronic prescriptions for life saving or recurrent medicines for foreign seafarers who arrive in the ports are accepted and seafarers can visit a pharmacy or see a doctor.
France	Electronic prescription can be made only within the EU and European Economic Area for EU citizens. Seafarers from other countries will not have electronic prescriptions recognised and will need to have a medical appointment, during their stop or call in France, to get a new prescription. This could be by teleconsultation. In all cases, seafarers shall provide a recent prescription to the Doctor. Seafarers can also ask their embassy's or Consulate's doctor to issue a new prescription, by teleconsultation.
Germany	If a pharmacy refuses, the Port medical service or Port doctor must be contacted, translate the prescription and sign it to obtain medicines. In such cases Port agents and seamen's missions are able and ready to assist. There is no problem to help any seafarer in such a situation.
Great Britain (East Coast)	Agents use normal channels and seek a doctor's appointment for a seafarer. However, it is currently a video or telephone conference established between the doctor and seafarer seeking renewal of the prescription. Unfortunately it is currently more difficult to speak to a doctor but this is determined on a case by case basis.
Scotland	Agent can arrange a video appointment with a UK doctor who should be able to issue a prescription
Greece	Electronic prescriptions are available for all Greeks and foreigners, who are covered by the Greek Medical System. Foreign seafarers arriving at Greek ports, must declare the quantity of medicines required to the agent, who can buy them from any pharmacy and provide these to them.
India	Electronic prescriptions are accepted
Israel	For ordering medicines with electronic prescription, a chemist supplies ZIM regularly. Send the ship agent the prescription and they will contact the chemist that can supply onboard. Ship Inspector can act as a broker if an agent cannot help or assistance is needed.
Italy	National Health Service electronic prescriptions can be used with a dedicated APP. Seafarers in need of specific medicine could obtain them through the local National Health Service and agents will provide them on board
Kenya	Vessel agents are able to procure any medications required.
Korea	Electronic prescriptions cannot be issued as medicines are registered and controlled by a central government body. The crew member should visit hospital and get a prescription from a local doctor. For shore leave, crew should have mobile phone, install gps control - corona virus application upon mandatory request by government quarantine office and check fever.

Liberia	<p>1 The Master must make declaration of all expired prescriptions to Port Health at the time of Boarding Party formalities.</p> <p>2. Thereafter, The Master thru the agent should make a request to Port Health on the prescription they intend to replenish.</p> <p>3. Port Health reviews the replenishment list along with the declaration of expired prescription and approved the list.</p> <p>4. The vessel agent thru authorized ship Chandler procures the prescriptions on the replenishment or renewal list from only authorized pharmacy licensed by the Pharmacy Board of Liberia.</p> <p>5. All procured prescriptions are taken back to Port Health to verify compliance with the renewal list and procured licensed pharmacy.</p>
Mexico	Cross-check with company doctor and the local agent. The company doctor should contact a local Practitioner to make a new prescription to be supplied before or on the day that the ship is in port.
Montenegro	No problem to provide medical assistance to foreign crew members on board ships. When medicine is required the ship's agent is obliged to announce it to the National coordinate body and to follow instructions given.
Morocco	No problem managing at the Moroccan ports with a certain flexibility of the port authorities and the support of the Moroccan union UMT.
Norway	The agent can arrange for a consultation with a Doctor rather than 'visit' a Doctor given the current restrictions.
Phillipines	Prescriptions of physicians not falling under the definition of Philippine law may not be recognized under the context of prescriptions, electronic or otherwise.
Poland	Any medical documentation from the country of origin is accepted proving the need. In such cases A Polish physician would issue a Polish e-prescription giving on the form a seafarer passport number instead of Polish PIN, which is accepted by a pharmacist. If the prescription is on a special cross-border form (it's not normally electronic) it is recognized in Poland and would be executed. If it's not as validation of a Polish physician would be required.
Portugal	Electronic prescriptions could be accepted. If not the seafarers needs to have documents from a doctor to by the necessary medication
Puerto Rico	A doctor cannot send electronic prescription and to know the pharmacy to send it to. There is a Walgreens and CVS near the Port of San Juan.
Romania	It is possible to get medicines with electronic prescriptions for foreign seafarers. All prescriptions are transmitted electronically to a nearest pharmacy or indicated pharmacy. All medicine is available except psychotropic drugs
Russia	For foreign seafarers who arrive in ports a prescription will be needed only to identify the drug and the electronic prescriptions for life saving or recurrent medicines for foreign seafarers would be accepted at the pharmacy. But there are some categories of patients who are supposed to take the medicine for free. In this case, they need a prescription from their doctor. For example, insulin-dependent patients. As well as those patients who are treated for cancer, AIDS and some other most serious diseases.
Singapore	Prescriptions must be authorized or re-written by a Singaporean registered practitioner before being presented as hospitals and medical centres do not accept foreign prescriptions
Sweden	Seafarer needs a paper prescription issued by a doctor from the EU. However it may be possible to arrange for them to see a Doctor
Ukraine	Most of medicaments in Ukrainian pharmacies are sold to anybody without any prescription. So, I doubt that the crew will face any probs if the list of medications is submitted to company/local agent in advance to purchase the required medicaments
United Kingdom	MCA reported that seafarers were having online consultations with doctors and any prescriptions were being issued that way. No details were given about the logistical issue of getting the requisite medications to the seafarer, but presumably the necessary information is communicated to a pharmacy local to the port where the seafarer's ship is, or is heading to. The supplies are taken by courier to the ship, if the seafarer is not able to leave the ship and collect them.
	Seafarer would have to see a doctor somewhere within the U.S. who could accept a foreign prescription and then issue a U.S. prescription that would be good anywhere within the U.S.
United States of America (Florida)	All crew have to do is let the medical staff on board know what meds they need and they will get it, either from ships medical stores or if they don't have it on board they will get in touch with shore side medical staff, who will get the prescription filled.
United States of America (Gulf Coast)	As long as the seafarer has their prescription or the bottle in which the meds came in, in most cases, is not a problem to get a refill
United States of America (Portland)	Teleconferencing with patients on board and crews can go to a pharmacy for medication renewal. This is usually arranged by the vessel agent.
United States of America (Texas)	If the seafarers family can send the medicine by postal service on time (depending on the country) to the agent or nearest seamans center or to an Inspector, they can bring it to the ship. If agent and owner agreed to send the patient to the doctor, he will get the prescription from the doctor for medicines required.