

Closing a Gaping Hole in the Consumer Safety Net

Research shows 68% of adults take a prescription drug in combination with over-the-counter (OTC) drugs and related products—yet no broadly deployed system exists to screen for drug interactions between prescription and the growing number of nonprescription drugs, vitamins, and dietary supplements people take every day.¹ Medco is leveraging evidence-based knowledge to create a new safety net in an often overlooked area—nonprescription products.

The **Medco Health Store**[®], a value-added online service available to the tens of millions of Medco members, offers more than 27,000 nonprescription medicines, health, wellness, and personal care products. These products include adjunctive and alternative therapies available through a convenient online store, and are aligned with our **Medco Therapeutic Resource Center**[®] focus on diabetes, asthma, depression, high blood pressure and other chronic and complex conditions—offering patients and payors an end-to-end pharmacy solution designed to drive better patient healthcare decisions. But most importantly, the **Medco Health Store** offers a unique service not available elsewhere—our automatic Drug Interaction Checker.

Here's how it works. Since Medco has access to prescription drug histories of its registered members, once the member has authorized us to do so, we can identify potential harmful drug interactions between such member's OTC purchases and his or her prescription medications. This enables us to offer Medco members some of the same drug safety protections on the nonprescription side as have been a mainstay of Medco on the prescription side. Screening is done in real time as the member adds nonprescription items to his or her shopping cart.

For example, if a patient using the blood thinner warfarin adds an OTC pain reliever such as aspirin to the shopping cart, he or she may not be aware of significantly increasing his or her risk for uncontrollable bleeding. The doctor won't know about the OTC purchase, and if the patient does not take the time to review the fine print on the product label, he or she would be unaware of a potentially life-threatening interaction.

Drug Interaction checker

There are potential drug interactions between items in your shopping bag and medications you have been prescribed!

SEVERE

Aspirin and warfarin sodium:
Aspirin and warfarin sodium both increase anticoagulation. Potential for dangerous interaction.

MINOR

Aspirin and lisinopril:
Long-term use of aspirin may decrease the ability of antihypertensives, such as ACE inhibitors, to control your blood pressure, especially in older patients. If you take Aspirin and ACE inhibitors together for long periods, your health care provider may monitor your blood pressure to make sure it is well-controlled.

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Discuss with your doctor
Post information you can share with your doctor

Daniel Pan, R.Ph.,
Specialist pharmacist

However, if the patient shops at the **Medco Health Store** and tries to purchase aspirin, our systems will cross-reference the patient's prescription history and automatically flag the purchase, pointing out the potentially dangerous interaction so the patient can make a more informed healthcare decision. This level of personalized patient protection is an invaluable service. As a matter of fact, more than 49,000 members have already taken advantage of the Drug Interaction Checker and received possible life-saving alerts. Medco gives members all the right tools to make informed purchases for both their prescription and nonprescription needs.

Along with this great safety feature, the **Medco Health Store** also offers prices that are lower (on average) than other large retail stores, along with \$0.99 flat-rate shipping². The **Medco Health Store** — another way Medco is helping make medicine smarter. **Log on today and save 20% off your first purchase order of \$40 or more. Simply enter code 20MHS at checkout and click "Apply Coupon".**