

United States Senate

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How Much Could New Yorkers Save on Re-Imported Drugs from Canada?

To illustrate the potential for New York customers to save hundreds of dollars a year on prescription drugs if US pharmacists were allowed to re-import lower priced medications from Canada and other countries, US Senator Charles E. Schumer this week conducted a study of the price New Yorkers and Canadians pay for the same brand name prescription drugs. The study examined the cost of a 30 day supply of four commonly prescribed brand name drugs and reveals a stark difference between prices paid in New York and prices paid in Canada:

- For the medication Norvasc, used to treat hypertension, the average price in upstate New York for a 30-day supply of the prescription drug was \$54.21 versus a \$36.44 price tag in Canada. **New Yorkers would save \$213.26 per year if they could buy at Canadian prices.**
- For the medication Prevacid, used to treat acid reflux, the average price in upstate New York for a 30-day supply of the prescription drug was \$153.11 versus a \$73.18 price tag in Canada. **New Yorkers would save \$959.12 per year if they could buy at Canadian prices.**
- For the medication Lipitor, used to treat high cholesterol, the average price in upstate New York for a 30-day supply of the prescription drug was \$82.07 versus a \$45.16 price tag in Canada. **New Yorkers would save \$443 per year if they could buy at Canadian prices.**
- For the medication Celebrex, used to treat arthritis, the average price in upstate New York for a 30-day supply of the prescription drug was \$100.26 versus a \$46.65 price tag in Canada. **New Yorkers would save \$643.34 per year if they could buy at Canadian prices.**

Schumer is cosponsoring a bipartisan effort to allow for the re-importation of lower-priced prescription drugs so that New Yorkers could realize these critical savings. Schumer is also opposing a new free trade agreement with Australia that would ban re-importing lower-cost medicines from Canada and other countries into the United States.

The following report summarizes the survey's results and shows how much residents in every county could save if re-importation is allowed in the United States.

Capital Region

Capital Region: Under the bipartisan plan to re-import lower priced prescription drugs, consumers in the Capital Region could save \$218 on a year supply of Norvasc (5mg); \$980 on Prevacid (30mg); \$451 on Lipitor (10mg); and \$701 on Celebrex (200mg).

Prescription Drug	Norvasc (5mg)	Prevacid (30mg)	Lipitor (10mg)	Celebrex (200mg)
Capital Region Price	\$54.58	\$154.86	\$82.78	\$105.08
Canadian Price	\$36.44	\$73.18	\$45.16	\$46.65
Monthly Savings	\$18.13	\$81.67	\$37.62	\$58.43
Yearly Savings	\$217.60	\$980.06	\$451.47	\$701.19

Albany	\$56.58	\$161.14	\$85.83	\$104.23
Canadian Price	\$36.44	\$73.18	\$45.16	\$46.65
Yearly Savings	\$241.66	\$1,055.42	\$488.09	\$691.01

Fulton	\$52.22	\$155.72	\$84.98	\$101.05
Canadian Price	\$36.44	\$73.18	\$45.16	\$46.65
Yearly Savings	\$189.34	\$990.48	\$477.94	\$652.82

Montgomery	\$52.76	\$156.73	\$81.15	\$101.33
Canadian Price	\$36.44	\$73.18	\$45.16	\$46.65
Yearly Savings	\$195.82	\$1,002.60	\$431.88	\$656.16

Rensselaer	\$55.34	\$149.61	\$81.05	\$117.40
Canadian Price	\$36.44	\$73.18	\$45.16	\$46.65
Yearly Savings	\$226.73	\$917.16	\$430.73	\$849.00

Saratoga	\$54.36	\$156.75	\$81.31	\$116.30
Canadian Price	\$36.44	\$73.18	\$45.16	\$46.65
Yearly Savings	\$214.97	\$1,002.79	\$433.87	\$835.90

Schenectady	\$58.10	\$157.36	\$85.10	\$103.45
Canadian Price	\$36.44	\$73.18	\$45.16	\$46.65
Yearly Savings	\$259.90	\$1,010.16	\$479.28	\$681.60

Schoharie	\$52.91	\$147.57	\$81.14	\$94.91
Canadian Price	\$36.44	\$73.18	\$45.16	\$46.65
Yearly Savings	\$197.62	\$892.57	\$431.75	\$579.11

Washington	\$54.34	\$153.96	\$81.67	\$101.98
Canadian Price	\$36.44	\$73.18	\$45.16	\$46.65
Yearly Savings	\$214.80	\$969.26	\$438.19	\$663.96

Central New York

Central New York: Under the bipartisan plan to re-import lower priced prescription drugs, consumers in Central New York could save \$190 on a year supply of Norvasc (5mg); \$951 on Prevacid (30mg); \$434 on Lipitor (10mg); and \$618 on Celebrex (200mg).

Prescription Drug	Norvasc (5mg)	Prevacid (30mg)	Lipitor (10mg)	Celebrex (200mg)
Central New York	\$52.29	\$152.46	\$81.34	\$98.14
Canadian Price	\$36.44	\$73.18	\$45.16	\$46.65
Monthly Savings	\$15.85	\$79.28	\$36.18	\$51.49
Yearly Savings	\$190.23	\$951.32	\$434.22	\$617.88

Cortland	\$53.10	\$153.87	\$83.27	\$99.50
Canadian Price	\$36.44	\$73.18	\$45.16	\$46.65
Yearly Savings	\$199.90	\$968.23	\$457.39	\$634.22

Madison	\$51.39	\$152.49	\$80.52	\$98.51
Canadian Price	\$36.44	\$73.18	\$45.16	\$46.65
Yearly Savings	\$179.33	\$951.62	\$424.32	\$622.32

Oneida	\$50.84	\$145.59	\$79.08	\$97.01
Canadian Price	\$36.44	\$73.18	\$45.16	\$46.65
Yearly Savings	\$172.80	\$868.90	\$407.11	\$604.39

Onondaga	\$50.06	\$153.22	\$80.13	\$97.46
Canadian Price	\$36.44	\$73.18	\$45.16	\$46.65
Yearly Savings	\$163.37	\$960.38	\$419.69	\$609.77

Oswego	\$56.09	\$157.14	\$83.70	\$98.20
Canadian Price	\$36.44	\$73.18	\$45.16	\$46.65
Yearly Savings	\$235.78	\$1,007.45	\$462.58	\$618.70

Rochester/Finger Lakes

Rochester/Finger Lakes: Under the bipartisan plan to re-import lower priced prescription drugs, consumers in Rochester/Finger Lakes could save \$212 on a year supply of Norvasc (5mg); \$976 on Prevacid (30mg); \$447 on Lipitor (10mg); and \$639 on Celebrex (200mg).

Prescription Drug	Norvasc (5mg)	Prevacid (30mg)	Lipitor (10mg)	Celebrex (200mg)
Rochester/Finger Lakes	\$54.09	\$154.51	\$82.41	\$99.90
Canadian Price	\$36.44	\$73.18	\$45.16	\$46.65
Monthly Savings	\$17.65	\$81.32	\$37.25	\$53.26
Yearly Savings	\$211.79	\$975.87	\$447.02	\$639.09

Cayuga	\$52.08	\$149.55	\$79.11	\$96.29
Canadian Price	\$36.44	\$73.18	\$45.16	\$46.65
Yearly Savings	\$187.61	\$916.42	\$407.47	\$595.68

Livingston	\$52.53	\$146.08	\$78.42	\$93.03
Canadian Price	\$36.44	\$73.18	\$45.16	\$46.65
Yearly Savings	\$193.01	\$874.78	\$399.19	\$556.63

Monroe	\$55.31	\$156.81	\$83.71	\$101.21
Canadian Price	\$36.44	\$73.18	\$45.16	\$46.65
Yearly Savings	\$226.44	\$1,003.54	\$462.67	\$654.79

Ontario	\$51.37	\$145.97	\$78.82	\$96.27
Canadian Price	\$36.44	\$73.18	\$45.16	\$46.65
Yearly Savings	\$179.14	\$873.43	\$403.92	\$595.46

Schuyler	\$55.57	\$152.75	\$83.56	\$101.21
Canadian Price	\$36.44	\$73.18	\$45.16	\$46.65
Yearly Savings	\$229.54	\$954.73	\$460.79	\$654.71

Seneca	\$57.10	\$173.65	\$89.24	\$106.31
Canadian Price	\$36.44	\$73.18	\$45.16	\$46.65
Yearly Savings	\$247.90	\$1,205.59	\$528.95	\$715.97

Tompkins	\$54.04	\$157.02	\$84.87	\$103.84
Canadian Price	\$36.44	\$73.18	\$45.16	\$46.65
Yearly Savings	\$211.18	\$1,006.06	\$476.52	\$686.38

Wayne	\$55.65	\$159.41	\$84.99	\$103.97
Canadian Price	\$36.44	\$73.18	\$45.16	\$46.65
Yearly Savings	\$230.54	\$1,034.74	\$478.03	\$687.91

Yates	\$53.17	\$149.31	\$78.96	\$97.00
Canadian Price	\$36.44	\$73.18	\$45.16	\$46.65
Yearly Savings	\$200.74	\$913.51	\$405.65	\$604.28

Hudson Valley

Hudson Valley: Under the bipartisan plan to re-import lower priced prescription drugs, consumers in the Hudson Valley could save \$238 on a year supply of Norvasc (5mg); \$995 on Prevacid (30mg); \$473 on Lipitor (10mg); and \$662 on Celebrex (200mg).

Hudson Valley	Norvasc (5mg)	Prevacid (30mg)	Lipitor (10mg)	Celebrex (200mg)
Hudson Valley	\$56.25	\$156.07	\$84.56	\$101.80
Canadian Price	\$36.44	\$73.18	\$45.16	\$46.65
Monthly Savings	\$19.81	\$82.88	\$39.40	\$55.15
Yearly Savings	\$237.74	\$994.61	\$472.82	\$661.82

Columbia	\$54.87	\$155.90	\$84.02	\$102.78
Canadian Price	\$36.44	\$73.18	\$45.16	\$46.65
Yearly Savings	\$221.11	\$992.62	\$466.40	\$673.64

Dutchess	\$56.12	\$155.11	\$86.54	\$102.55
Canadian Price	\$36.44	\$73.18	\$45.16	\$46.65
Yearly Savings	\$236.14	\$983.11	\$496.61	\$670.85

Greene	\$56.54	\$158.05	\$82.76	\$104.54
Canadian Price	\$36.44	\$73.18	\$45.16	\$46.65
Yearly Savings	\$241.12	\$1,018.36	\$451.25	\$694.67

Orange	\$56.03	\$155.77	\$84.91	\$102.69
Canadian Price	\$36.44	\$73.18	\$45.16	\$46.65
Yearly Savings	\$235.06	\$991.03	\$477.05	\$672.55

Putnam	\$56.39	\$154.80	\$84.84	\$98.32
Canadian Price	\$36.44	\$73.18	\$45.16	\$46.65
Yearly Savings	\$239.35	\$979.39	\$476.21	\$620.09

Rockland	\$55.87	\$151.14	\$83.12	\$96.18
Canadian Price	\$36.44	\$73.18	\$45.16	\$46.65
Yearly Savings	\$233.09	\$935.45	\$455.59	\$594.43

Sullivan	\$55.88	\$160.41	\$83.70	\$103.80
Canadian Price	\$36.44	\$73.18	\$45.16	\$46.65
Yearly Savings	\$233.26	\$1,046.69	\$462.50	\$685.85

Ulster	\$56.76	\$158.16	\$86.98	\$103.04
Canadian Price	\$36.44	\$73.18	\$45.16	\$46.65
Yearly Savings	\$243.84	\$1,019.74	\$501.91	\$676.75

Westchester	\$57.83	\$155.28	\$84.14	\$102.28
Canadian Price	\$36.44	\$73.18	\$45.16	\$46.65
Yearly Savings	\$256.68	\$985.10	\$467.86	\$667.58

North Country

North Country: Under the bipartisan plan to re-import lower priced prescription drugs, consumers in North Country could save \$203 on a year supply of Norvasc (5mg); \$917 on Prevacid (30mg); \$423 on Lipitor (10mg); and \$619 on Celebrex (200mg).

Prescription Drugs	Norvasc (5mg)	Prevacid (30mg)	Lipitor (10mg)	Celebrex (200mg)
North Country	\$53.33	\$149.63	\$80.38	\$98.19
Canadian Price	\$36.44	\$73.18	\$45.16	\$46.65
Savings	\$16.89	\$76.44	\$35.23	\$51.55
Yearly Savings	\$202.64	\$917.31	\$422.70	\$618.58

Clinton	\$55.89	\$145.09	\$80.85	\$98.43
Canadian Price	\$36.44	\$73.18	\$45.16	\$46.65
Yearly Savings	\$233.35	\$862.87	\$428.33	\$621.38

Essex	\$53.81	\$155.89	\$82.18	\$100.60
Canadian Price	\$36.44	\$73.18	\$45.16	\$46.65
Yearly Savings	\$208.46	\$992.52	\$444.34	\$647.50

Franklin	\$53.24	\$155.76	\$80.94	\$100.33
Canadian Price	\$36.44	\$73.18	\$45.16	\$46.65
Yearly Savings	\$201.62	\$990.91	\$429.45	\$644.17

Herkimer	\$53.69	\$146.47	\$79.48	\$96.77
Canadian Price	\$36.44	\$73.18	\$45.16	\$46.65
Yearly Savings	\$206.95	\$879.43	\$411.94	\$601.54

Jefferson	\$51.62	\$151.32	\$80.28	\$99.07
Canadian Price	\$36.44	\$73.18	\$45.16	\$46.65
Yearly Savings	\$182.14	\$937.63	\$421.44	\$629.06

Lewis	\$51.32	\$140.90	\$77.42	\$92.77
Canadian Price	\$36.44	\$73.18	\$45.16	\$46.65
Yearly Savings	\$178.50	\$812.55	\$387.17	\$553.45

St. Lawrence	\$53.16	\$149.77	\$80.62	\$98.43
Canadian Price	\$36.44	\$73.18	\$45.16	\$46.65
Yearly Savings	\$200.64	\$919.01	\$425.54	\$621.38

Warren	\$53.90	\$151.82	\$81.27	\$99.16
Canadian Price	\$36.44	\$73.18	\$45.16	\$46.65
Yearly Savings	\$209.50	\$943.58	\$433.42	\$630.12

Southern Tier

Southern Tier: Under the bipartisan plan to re-import lower priced prescription drugs, consumers in the Southern Tier could save \$193 on a year supply of Norvasc (5mg); \$936 on Prevacid (30mg); \$431 on Lipitor (10mg); and \$625 on Celebrex (200mg).

Prescription Drug	Norvasc (5mg)	Prevacid (30mg)	Lipitor (10mg)	Celebrex (200mg)
Southern Tier	\$52.51	\$151.17	\$81.07	\$98.70
Canadian Price	\$36.44	\$73.18	\$45.16	\$46.65
Savings	\$16.07	\$77.99	\$35.92	\$52.06
Yearly Savings	\$192.80	\$935.86	\$430.99	\$624.68

Allegany	\$51.47	\$145.63	\$80.99	\$96.84
Canadian Price	\$36.44	\$73.18	\$45.16	\$46.65
Yearly Savings	\$180.34	\$869.35	\$430.01	\$602.33

Broome	\$52.72	\$150.45	\$78.61	\$99.57
Canadian Price	\$36.44	\$73.18	\$45.16	\$46.65
Yearly Savings	\$195.36	\$927.19	\$401.45	\$635.11

Chemung	\$51.90	\$146.14	\$77.82	\$95.10
Canadian Price	\$36.44	\$73.18	\$45.16	\$46.65
Yearly Savings	\$185.45	\$875.42	\$391.92	\$581.40

Chenango	\$52.97	\$156.24	\$81.57	\$99.72
Canadian Price	\$36.44	\$73.18	\$45.16	\$46.65
Yearly Savings	\$198.28	\$996.67	\$436.91	\$636.83

Delaware	\$50.76	\$156.75	\$83.22	\$100.91
Canadian Price	\$36.44	\$73.18	\$45.16	\$46.65
Yearly Savings	\$171.84	\$1,002.82	\$456.79	\$651.19

Otsego	\$53.89	\$146.81	\$82.90	\$98.03
Canadian Price	\$36.44	\$73.18	\$45.16	\$46.65
Yearly Savings	\$209.33	\$883.46	\$452.95	\$616.63

Steuben	\$50.88	\$147.05	\$78.05	\$95.04
Canadian Price	\$36.44	\$73.18	\$45.16	\$46.65
Yearly Savings	\$173.21	\$886.37	\$394.78	\$580.70

Tioga	\$55.49	\$160.32	\$85.42	\$104.42
Canadian Price	\$36.44	\$73.18	\$45.16	\$46.65
Yearly Savings	\$228.58	\$1,045.57	\$483.11	\$693.23

Western New York

Western New York: Under the bipartisan plan to re-import lower priced prescription drugs, consumers in Western New York could save \$231 on a year supply of Norvasc (5mg); \$948 on Prevacid (30mg); \$433 on Lipitor (10mg); and \$627 on Celebrex (200mg).

Prescription Drug	Norvasc (5mg)	Prevacid (30mg)	Lipitor (10mg)	Celebrex (200mg)
Western New York	\$55.66	\$152.18	\$81.24	\$98.87
Canadian Price	\$36.44	\$73.18	\$45.16	\$46.65
Monthly Savings	\$19.22	\$78.99	\$36.09	\$52.23
Yearly Savings	\$230.67	\$947.94	\$433.04	\$626.74

Cattaraugus	\$51.60	\$154.42	\$78.86	\$95.93
Canadian Price	\$36.44	\$73.18	\$45.16	\$46.65
Yearly Savings	\$181.87	\$974.86	\$404.48	\$591.44

Chautauqua	\$54.68	\$148.68	\$80.61	\$98.02
Canadian Price	\$36.44	\$73.18	\$45.16	\$46.65
Yearly Savings	\$218.81	\$905.90	\$425.42	\$616.54

Erie	\$52.38	\$148.35	\$80.27	\$99.39
Canadian Price	\$36.44	\$73.18	\$45.16	\$46.65
Yearly Savings	\$191.30	\$902.04	\$421.42	\$632.98

Genesee	\$60.15	\$152.22	\$79.14	\$93.40
Canadian Price	\$36.44	\$73.18	\$45.16	\$46.65
Yearly Savings	\$284.45	\$948.48	\$407.81	\$561.02

Niagara	\$53.60	\$138.78	\$79.91	\$97.11
Canadian Price	\$36.44	\$73.18	\$45.16	\$46.65
Yearly Savings	\$205.90	\$787.10	\$417.02	\$605.57

Orleans	\$61.56	\$161.21	\$86.51	\$106.64
Canadian Price	\$36.44	\$73.18	\$45.16	\$46.65
Yearly Savings	\$301.38	\$1,056.27	\$496.29	\$719.89

Wyoming	\$55.69	\$161.59	\$83.39	\$101.63
Canadian Price	\$36.44	\$73.18	\$45.16	\$46.65
Yearly Savings	\$231.02	\$1,060.91	\$458.85	\$659.77

Source: July 2004 Schumer survey of local and Canadian pharmacies.