

Insurance Times: UnitedHealth says it will cover seniors for drugs from Canada
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NEW YORK (AP) — The country's biggest health insurer has informed members of the senior citizens lobbying group AARP that it will reimburse them for prescriptions filled in Canada and elsewhere abroad.

UnitedHealth Group Inc. sent a letter to the 97,000 people who purchased insurance with a drug benefit through the American Association for Retired Persons telling them about the coverage.

Buying prescription drugs outside the country for use at home violates federal regulations but is a growing practice among some older Americans seeking relief from high prices.

AARP said it is not advocating purchasing drugs from abroad. It described the letter as a reminder of policy, and called its timing "unfortunate," coming so soon after a failed effort at legislation to allow people to import prescription drugs for their own use.

UnitedHealth said its letter did not reflect a change in coverage but was meant to clarify a misunderstanding. It also said it was not trying to encourage anyone to violate Food and Drug Administration regulations.