

03 Mar 2008 Travelling with Medication to the UAE (United Arab Emirates) and Dubai

Recent press accounts of travellers entering Dubai with banned substances have highlighted the need for travellers to be aware that, in addition to controlled drugs, several medicines and complementary therapies, available both on prescription and over the counter in the U.K., may not be imported into Dubai and other countries of the UAE.

Advice for Travellers

Penalties can be severe if banned substances are found in luggage on entering UAE. There is no specific advice available as to how to correctly carry these medicines if they are required.

In the meantime, if you are planning to take medication to UAE or Dubai for your own use, we suggest you check the list below and only carry medicines you *really* need, in the amounts needed for the trip, keep medicines in their original containers, with the package insert, if available and carry a letter from the prescriber stating that the medication is prescribed for the named traveller, the purpose of the medication and that the medication is essential and should not be stopped.

PLEASE ASK THE RECEPTION STAFF FOR A LETTER, FOR WHICH THERE WILL BE A CHARGE.

UAE has a very strict, zero-tolerance anti-drugs policy. If you can get by without medication, it is safest to leave it at home if you are travelling to or through UAE.

While many other countries also apply controls to the following drugs, UAE is unusual in conducting extremely thorough searches of many travellers through its airports, with highly sensitive equipment.

If you must take medication, make sure:

1. It is not on the banned 'Narcotics' list;
2. You have a prescription for it – even if you bought it over-the-counter.

Narcotics

- These are Controlled substances under Schedules 1-6 of the UAE Federal Law 14 of 1995.
- They may not be imported into UAE. Possession of these drugs, with or without a prescription, **may lead to a prison sentence.**
- In addition to the medications listed below, **this category includes cannabis, cocaine and opiates, from heroin to poppy seeds (the kind used in everyday baking).**

Controlled Drugs Class A - Psychotropics

- These are drugs for which a prescription must be held. The more verifying paperwork from the authorising doctor which can accompany any drug in this category, the better. In UAE, they can only be dispensed upon production of a registered (health authority-approved) prescription.
- **They include some common sleeping tablets, painkillers, anti-depressants and hormone replacement therapy**

Controlled Drugs Class B – Controlled medicines

- Possession of these drugs must be accompanied by a prescription. Many of these drugs are available over-the-counter in other countries and travellers to or through UAE should ensure they obtain a prescription before carrying any of these drugs to that country.
- **They include many common cold and cough remedies**

This is the most recent, comprehensive list of controlled pharmaceuticals published by Fair Trials International. The UAE does not publicise this list on any of its diplomatic or ministerial websites. We have written to the UAE Ambassador and Customs Minister asking them to do so, so that travellers can be better prepared before flying to that country.

While every effort has been made to verify the contents of this list, where in doubt, we advise travellers to check their medication with the UAE consulate before travel.

Narcotic (Active ingredients)	Controlled Drug Class A - Psychotropics (Active ingredients)	Trade Names	
Alfentanil Amphetamine Buprenorphine Codeine Fentanyl Ketamine Methadone Methyphenidate Morphine Pentazocine Pethidine Remifentanyl Sufentanyl Ketalar Physeptone Ritalin Sosegon Subutex Ultiva	Acitretin Alprazolam Aripiprazole Bromazepam Buprenorphine 200 (microgram tablets and 500 microgram injection) Butorphanol Chlupromazine Chlordiazepoxide Clobazam Clonazepam Clorazepate Diazepam/ Valium Dihydrocodeine Droperidol Flumazenil Flupentixol Fluphenazine Haloperidol Isotretinoin- used for treatment of ACNE Lorazepam Medazepam Mephenoxalone	Midazolam Misoprostol Nalbuphine Olanzapine Phenobarbitone Pimozide Prazepam Prochlorperazine/Stemetil- used for NAUSEA Propofol Prostaglandin Quetiapine Risperidone Sulpiride Sultopride Temazepam Thiopentone Tiapride Tramadol Trfluoperazine Zaleplon Ziprasidone Zolpidem Zuclopenhtixol	Stesolid Stilnox Tekam Temgesic Tiapridal Tramal Tramundin Tranxene Xanax Zaldiar Zeldox Zyprexa

Controlled Drug Class B (Active ingredients)	Trade Names	
Amitriptyline Baclofen Benzhexol Biperiden Buspirone Carisoprodol Citalopram Clomipramine Codeine Cyclobenzaprine Dextromethorphan Diphenoxylate Dotheipin Duloxetine Escitalopram Estradiol- used for HRT Ethinylestradiol- used for HRT Etonogestrel- used for HRT Fluoxetine Flupenthixol Fluvoxamine Imapramine Isotretinoin- used to treat ACNE Lithium Carbonate Maprotiline Menotrophin Meserolone Methocarbamol Mianserin Milnacipran Minaprine	Mirtazapine Moclobemide Naltrexone Nandrolone Nefazodone Norethisterone- used in some contraceptive pills and as HRT Norgetrol- used in some contraceptive pills and as HRT Noscapine Octreotide Oestradiol- used as HRT Opipramol Orphenadrine Oseltamivir Oxazepam Paroxetine Pholcodine- COUGH MIXTURE Pimecrolimus Procyclidine Propoxyphene (with paracetamol) Pyrisuccideanol Reboxetine Sertraline Somatrophine Testosterone Ticlopidine Tizanidine Tretinoin Trimipramine Vecuronium Venlafaxine	DHC continus Dialag Diazepam Diprivan Dogmatil Dormicum Dorsilon Frisium Gardinal Genprid Haldol Intraval Largactil Lexotanil Limbital Neotigason Nobrium Noctran Nubain Orap ProlixinDextlag

Appendix 2 Common UAE controlled drugs (Trade names)

The following list shows some of the TRADE names of those controlled items that are registered as medicines in the UAE

<p>Diarsed Diaxine Dicton Distalgesic/ Co Proxamol Edronax Efexor Elidel Estracombi- HRT Estrofem- HRT Faverin Femoston-HRT Flexiban Flozak Fluanxol Flumed DM adult Fluneurin Fluoxone Fluran Flutin Fluxetyl Genotropin Insidon Intard Ixel</p>	<p>Kafosed Kemadrin Kliogest-HRT Lagaflex Linz Lioresal Lomotil- for DIARRHOEA Ludiomil Menogen Muscadol Myogesic Noracod Norcuron Norditropin Norflex Norgesic Nuvaing Oxetine Paracodol Phensedyl Primotestone Progyluton Prothiaden/ Dothepin Proviron Prozac Remeron Revacod Rhinotussel Riaphan Roaccutane Robaxin Robaxisal</p>	<p>Robitussin-CF- COUGH MEDICINE Romilar Saizen Salipax Sandostatin Saroten Sedofan DM Sedofan-P Seroxat Serzone Sirdalud Somadryl compound St Joseph cough Sterandryl Stivane Surmontil Sustanon Tamiflu Ticlid Tixylix- COUGH MEDICINE Tofranil Trexan Tripofed dm Trisequens- HRT Tryptizol Tuscalman Tussifin with codeine Unified DM Vesanoid Virormone Zoloft</p>
--	--	--