

What does the prescription status of a medicine mean?



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Answer:

The prescription status of a medicine (i.e. the classification of a medicine as regards its supply) determines whether or not you need a medical prescription to obtain that medicine. Medicines that require a medical prescription to be dispensed are called 'prescription-only medicines' (POM). Medicines that can be obtained without a prescription are often called 'over-the-counter' (OTC) medicines (labelled 'Not subject to prescription' in the Melclass Database). The legal classification of a medicine as regards its supply is decided by the regulatory authorities of member states.