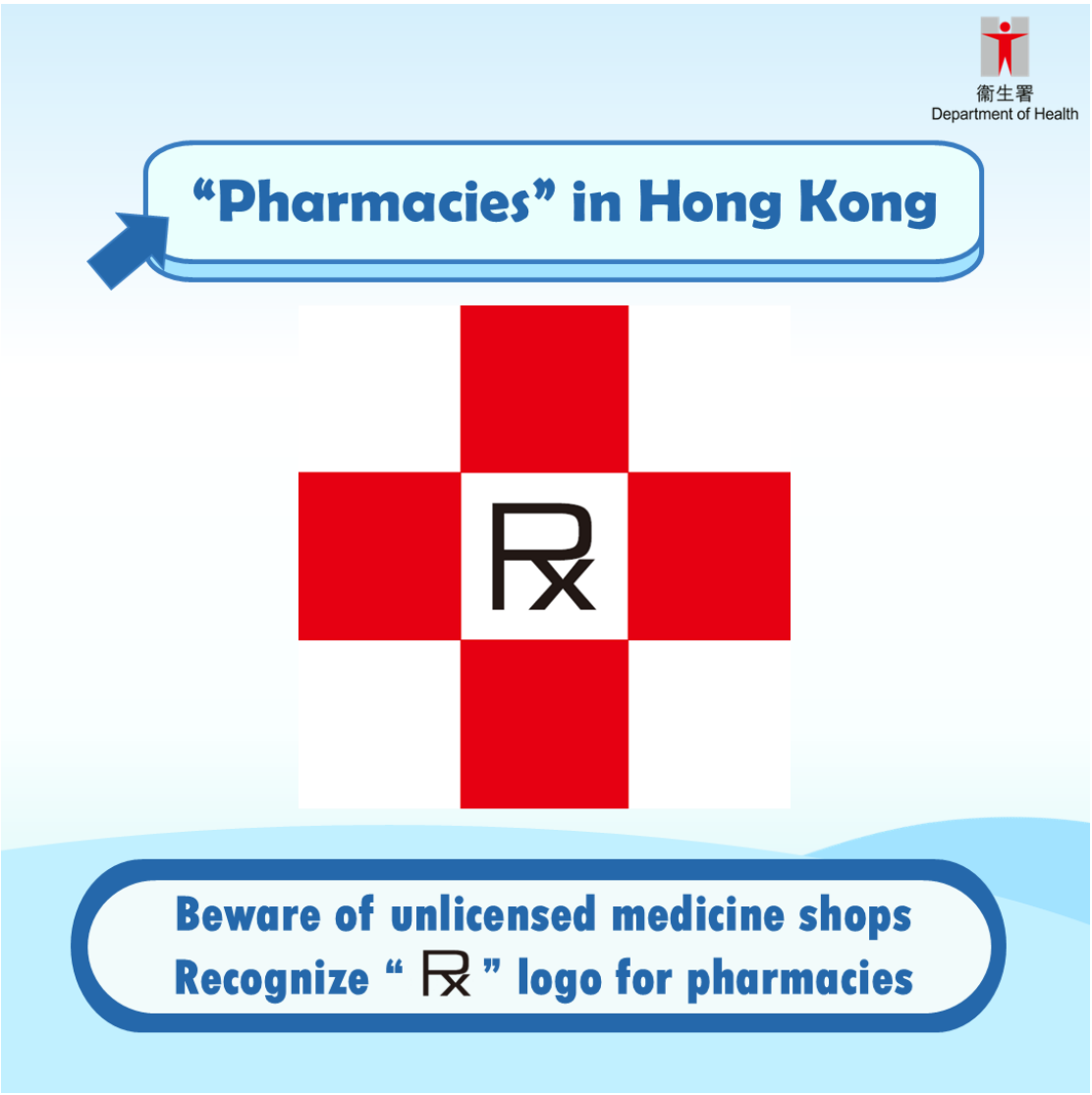
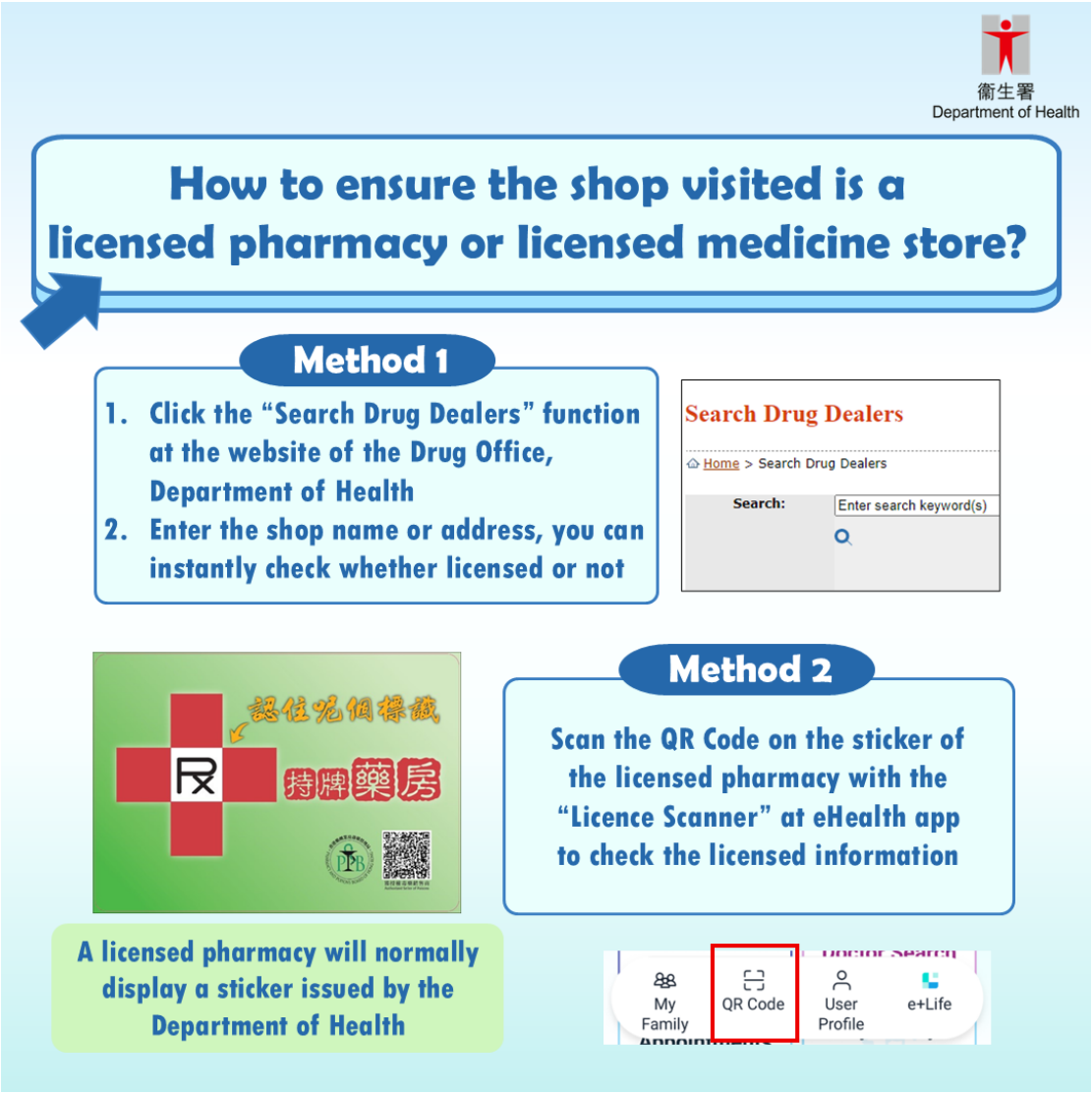



**Smart Shopping Medicines – Identifying licensed pharmacies and medicines shops at a glance**

In Hong Kong, legitimate medicine retailers include Authorized Seller of Poisons (commonly known as pharmacies), and Listed Seller of Poisons (commonly known as medicine stores). The most obvious identification of a pharmacy is to check if the shop has displayed a prescribed logo, a black「℞」with white background in the middle of a red cross, which symbolizes "prescription".




## 🙋 How to ensure the shop I visited is a licensed pharmacy or licensed medicine store?

The best way is to use the search drug dealers function at the Drug Office of Department of Health's website at: https://www.drugoffice.gov.hk/eps/do/tc/consumer/search_drug_dealers2.html

Input the name of the shop or the address, you can instantly verify whether or not the shop is a licensed pharmacy or licensed medicine shop.

In addition, the Department of Health has issued sticker to licensed pharmacies for display at prominent locations in the pharmacy to help the public to identify a licensed pharmacy. Members of the public and tourists can download the eHealth app and use the "Licence Scanner" on the landing page to scan the QR code and check the licensed information about a pharmacy. If the shop is a licensed pharmacy, the message "This is a QR code issued for licensed pharmacy" will appear, along with details about that licensed pharmacy.

## 🙋 Be mindful when buying medicines

Check carefully when buying medicines. If there is a Hong Kong product registration number in the format of "HK-XXXXX" printed on the outer package of the medicine, it means the product has been approved with registration. The safety, quality and efficacy are guaranteed.

You may also visit the Search Drug Database at the website of the Pharmacy and Poisons Board of Hong Kong at www.drugoffice.gov.hk/eps/do/tc/consumer/search_drug_database2.html

Input the product's English name or the ingredient and the registered particulars of the product(s) will be displayed.

**Three steps to Buying Medicine wisely**

1 Identify the prescribed logo for the pharmacy or dispensary

2 Check licensed or not at Department of Health's website

3 Examine if there is a HK product registration number at the outer package "HK-XXXXX"

If in doubt, you are welcome to email Drug Office pharmgeneral@dh.gov.hk for enquiry.

Let's be a smart consumer. Buy medicines with confidence and use them with peace of mind.