

Taking prescription medication

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Phuket forums

Fiona V.
Barrow-in-Furness... 7 posts

Taking prescription medication

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Mar 13, 2021, 4:28 PM

Just wondering if anyone can help ? I know Thai drug laws are very strict. I take Gabapentin and codeine for back and nerve problems. I know I need to take my prescription with me but my problem is I have recently married and my passport is in my maiden name but my prescription is in my married name. Will this be OK or am I likely to have problems at immigration/customs ?? Thanks for any help

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cussie1nsw
Sydney, Australia Destination Expert for Patong

Level 6 Contributor

 4,478 posts 51 reviews 70 helpful votes

1. Re: Taking prescription medication

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Mar 13, 2021, 4:37 PM

Get a letter from your dr quoting both names

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2. Re: Taking prescription medication

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Mar 13, 2021, 5:55 PM

Hello Fiona and welcome to the forum.

Some medications require a permit to take into the Kingdom of Thailand. There is a person from Australia who has answered this question many times and been very helpful and did a proforma application to help some people.

I take it you have not been to Thailand before in 25 trips I have not been asked by customs. I have taken in prescription medications that are over the counter in Thailand.

To answer your question I doubt you will be questioned by

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customs .That said On time at BKK they did a ramdom check on the person behind me. On night at CNX they did screen my luggage when leaving.

It is quite common for people to have some ID with different names.

It might be worth having a letter from a Justice of The Peace or similar.

Or you can just carry a copy of your marriage certificate
Chok Dee

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Polda69
Sydney, Australia

Level 6 Contributor

3,332 posts

36 reviews

25 helpful votes

3. Re: Taking prescription medication

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Mar 13, 2021, 6:24 PM

I just get a letter from my doctor for mine.

I've never needed it, but it doesn't hurt.

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Level 6 Contributor

12,505 posts

4 reviews

6 helpful votes

4. Re: Taking prescription medication

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Mar 13, 2021, 7:14 PM

Get your passport renewed with your correct legal name.

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5. Re: Taking prescription medication

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Mar 13, 2021, 8:39 PM

Gabapentin is readily available here at the pharmacist, no script needed. Not sure about codeine. Matter fact, I'd stock up, on what's allowed to bring back in your country, before leaving Thailand, since it's so inexpensive here.

+1 on changing passport now while you don't need.

Edited: 8:40 pm, March 13, 2021

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OctoberSix
Bangkok, Thailand

Level 6 Contributor

19,666 posts

28 reviews

38 helpful votes

6. Re: Taking prescription medication

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Mar 13, 2021, 9:20 PM

Definitely get a new passport. If by the rare chance there is a problem, Thai officials can be really reluctant to step outside the box. If you don't cross a "T" or dot an "I", it could result in a real goat roping. A different name on a prescription !? Oh my!

It will also make things clearer when booking flights.

Edited: 9:21 pm, March 13, 2021

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Fiona V
Barrow-in-Furness...

7 posts

7. Re: Taking prescription medication

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Mar 14, 2021, 4:56 AM

Thank you all for replying. I have been to Phuket before, last year, but wasn't on this medication then. As far as I can see on the restricted drugs list, gabapentin isn't on them and as I'm only there for 2 weeks I could manage without the codeine.

In the UK you do not have to change your passport to your married name until it expires and as mine has 5 more years that is why I haven't done that. I have also already booked flights etc in my maiden name. I was hoping that if I carried my marriage certificate and also the prescription and a letter from my doctor that would be sufficient.

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8. Re: Taking prescription medication

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Mar 14, 2021, 5:11 AM

Life's a Beach [Link](#)

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Is the gabapentin for shingles, if so, there's other med if you can't get codeine. Although simply popping into a doc's office / clinic and getting a script for, wouldn't be hard, especially since you already have one in English.

Good luck

[Reply](#)[Report inappropriate content](#)Fiona V
Barrow-in-Furness...

7 posts

9. Re: Taking prescription medication

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Mar 14, 2021, 5:45 AM

The gabapentin is for nerve pain. I've had 2 lumbar decompression surgeries on my spine which have left me with damaged nerve receptors and the gabapentin blocks the pain signals to my brain.

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10. Re: Taking prescription medication

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Mar 14, 2021, 6:49 AM

I feel your pain. Had 2 herniated L discs fixed myself, and fortunate enough to be fairly successful. Still nursing 5 degenerative discs, and have put off surgery for 20+ years by retiring early.

I used it for residual nerve pain from shingles, and a bunch of other stuff, some worked some didn't. All were available over the counter, without a script. Some quite strong, psycho-med, not recommended for unstable people 😊

And yet, I'm still alive and didn't off myself, yet. As a predominant side effect... 😊. No experience with codeine though. Took V's to sleep if all else failed.

Good Luck

Edited: 6:50 am, March 14, 2021

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