

 VSbulletin

## VSbulletin 072 - Bringing medications into the UAE

We need to let you know that the Ministry of Health and Prevention (MoHAP) for UAE have issued a revised policy relating to bringing certain drugs into the region. The UAE operate a strict policy in regards bringing certain drugs into the region – this includes a large number of prescribed and over the counter medicines, that are widely available in the UK.

### What's changed?

A large number of prescribed and over the counter medicines, that are widely available in the UK, are considered by the UAE to be "controlled" substances. In order to permit legal entry, ***all 'controlled' substances require additional procedures.***

For example 'controlled' substances include common sleeping tablets (such as temazepam, zolpidem, zopiclone, zaleplon), painkillers (such as those containing codeine, tramadol, amitriptyline), anti-depressants (such as citalopram, escitalopram, sertraline, olanzapine, quetiapine, amitriptyline, mirtazapine, fluoxetine, venlafaxine), hormone replacement therapy (such as testosterone, oestradiol) and other medications.

### What's required?

To permit legal entry with 'controlled' substances prior approval from the Registration and Drug Control Department, Ministry of Health, is required, by completing an electronic form - the form can be downloaded free via the link in the GOV.UK advisory (below).

To complete the form you will need:

- the original prescription issued by the attending physician (maximum 30 day supply)
- a letter from your doctor confirming the medication has been prescribed for personal use
- your passport information

You may also require the name, ingredients, dosage, manufacturer and batch numbers of the drugs you will be carrying so have them handy when you complete the online process.

***You may be also required to present these original documents with the prior approval to customs authorities*** at the port of entry to get them signed and stamped for the duration of stay.

[Gov.uk update](#)

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*Some prescribed and over the counter medicines that are available in the UK are considered controlled substances in the UAE and can't be brought into the country without prior permission from the UAE Ministry of Health. Guidelines on carrying personal medication into the UAE and a list of controlled medicines can be found on the [UAE Ministry of Health website](#).*

*Following changes in October 2018, the UAE Ministry of Health announced the requirement for all tourists and residents entering the UAE to complete an [electronic form](#) to obtain online approval to carry medication for personal use, prior to entering the country. The Ministry of Health has also published a [user guide](#) explaining how to complete the application and the supporting documents required. The British Embassy is currently requesting further information on this process and whether it is required for all types of medication.*

*For more information on controlled medicines and obtaining permission, contact the UAE Ministry of Health directly by emailing [info@moh.gov.ae](mailto:info@moh.gov.ae) or calling +971 2 652 0500. If you arrive in the UAE without this permission and the required documentation, the medication will not be allowed into the UAE and you may be prosecuted under UAE law.*

If you have any questions about this, please contact Sales Support at [US.salessupport@fly.virgin.com](mailto:US.salessupport@fly.virgin.com) or call 1-855-485-9064.

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