



The Daily Dish

The Empty Promise – Importing Canadian Drugs

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This *Washington Post* headline was eye-catching – [FDA to allow Florida to import prescription drugs from Canada](#) – and its lede striking: “The U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved a Florida program aimed at allowing the state to import certain prescription drugs from Canada at a lower cost — a major policy shift and part of a broader push to bring down the price of medications.” As it turns out, there is little chance that this will amount to more than hype and headlines.

To begin, the FDA did not simply say that any Floridian can go Canuck in the drug market. Instead, the FDA granted [approval](#) to the implementation plan of the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (FAHCA). In its [press release](#), the FAHCA announced: “The state will begin by providing prescription drugs in a small number of drug classes which will include maintenance medications to help individuals who have chronic health conditions such as HIV/AIDS, mental illness, prostate cancer, and urea cycle disorder. These drugs will be for individuals who are under the care of the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, Department of Children and Families, Department of Corrections, and Department of Health. The program will then expand to include providing imported prescription drugs for Medicaid members across the state.”