



Aug. 15, 2005

Your Time

Doctor's Orders

By [SORA SONG, COCO MASTERS](#)

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INSERT CARD, REMOVE DRUGS

If you can get cash and airline tickets from an ATM, why not drugs? Two states--California and Virginia--have approved the use of ATM-style kiosks for prescription refills, and Hawaii has okayed them for first orders. Longs Drugs stores in California have already deployed at least four of the machines under a state Board of Pharmacy waiver that allows the dispensing of drugs without a pharmacist present. Pharmacists naturally worry that the kiosks will reduce their contact with customers. And many of those customers are likely to be elderly, say critics, rich targets for drug users looking for an easy score. --By Coco Masters