

## Use of Controlled Substances in Research

**T**he United States Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) regulates the use of controlled substances to prevent diversion and abuse. EHRS provides guidance to assist researchers in understanding and meeting their obligations under the DEA's extensive requirements.

### DEA Registration

The Principal Investigator (PI) is responsible for registering with the DEA prior to start of research activities using DEA Controlled Substances. [Registration Renewal](#) is required for continued research activity.

### Security and Storage

As part of the registration process, security and storage locations must be pre-approved by the DEA before registration certification can be granted.

### Inventory and Recordkeeping

Documents must be readily retrievable and available for audit. Records for [Schedule I](#) and [Schedule II](#) controlled substances must be kept separate from [Schedule III-V](#).

### Purchases and Transfers

Only PIs, with a current DEA registration, are authorized to purchase and/or transfer controlled substances to other registrants.. Clinical registrations should not be used to obtain controlled substances for use in research.

### EHRS Training and Registration

PIs must also be registered with EHRS by completing and submitting the [EHRS Controlled Substances Registration Form](#). Also, the required Controlled Substances training can be completed via the [EHRS Online Training System](#).

### DEA Audit Liaison

EHRS should be present for DEA audits of researchers using controlled substances.

### Reporting Theft or Loss

PIs must ensure that any shortages or misuse do not go unnoticed. Theft or loss must be reported immediately by filling out DEA's form 106 online and by contacting EHRS and Campus Safety.

### Disposals and Reverse Distribution

DEA registrants are responsible for proper disposal of any controlled substances in their possession.

[List of DEA registered Reverse Distributors](#)

### Related Resources:

[DEA's Office of Diversion Control Website](#)  
[EHRS Website - Controlled Substances](#)

### Quick Take

- Controlled substances and [associated records](#) must be kept in a secure location.
- DEA registrants are responsible for proper disposal of unused/unwanted controlled substances.



### Contacts:

[EHRS](#): 215-707-2520  
 Campus phone 2-2520  
[Campus Safety](#): 215-204-1234  
 Campus phone 1-1234  
[Central DEA Call Center](#): 800-882-9539