The 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 starting 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 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](#)

**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
- **Central DEA Call Center:** 800-882-9539

**Related Resources:**
- [DEA’s Office of Diversion Control Website](#)
- [EHRS Website - Controlled Substances](#)

To view fact sheets on other topics, please visit [https://www.temple.edu/ehrs/factsheets](https://www.temple.edu/ehrs/factsheets)