



Controlled Substances in Emergency Situations and the 2017 Protecting Patient Access to Emergency Medications Act (PPAEMA)

[Important PPAEMA for EMS Agencies](#)

[Important PPAEMA Information for Pharmacists and Patients](#)

[Requesting DEA Assistance for Controlled Substance in Disasters](#)

Important PPAEMA Information for EMS

More details found at <https://www.cdc.gov/php/publications/topic/briefs/ema/index.html>

- In 2017, the **Protecting Patient Access to Emergency Medications Act (PPAEMA)** introduced to end confusion among state agencies.
- **Federal regulations supersede previous state guidelines** - Prior to 2017, controlled substance requirements varied state by state because there was no specific federal guidance on them.
- **DEA Registration for EMS Agencies.** Language added by PPAEMA now allows EMS agencies to receive their own DEA registration to administer controlled substances following **these two guidelines**:
 - > **EMS agencies that service multiple states will need DEA registrations for each of those states**
 - > **Hospital-based EMS agencies may use the hospital's DEA registration and will not need to register with the DEA separately**
- **Use of Standing Orders** The PPAEMA allows EMS agencies to “administer controlled substances in schedule II, III, IV, or V outside the physical presence of a medical director or authorizing medical professional.”¹⁴ EMS agency must
 - > 1) be authorized to do so by state law and
 - > 2) have a standing order¹⁵ or verbal order¹⁶ from a medical director or an authorizing medical professional
- **Storage of Controlled Substances.** EMS agencies may store controlled substances in the agency location registered with the DEA, unregistered locations, and in EMS vehicles used by the agency. The United States Attorney General must be notified of all unregistered locations at least 30 days before the controlled substances are initially delivered to those locations
- **Restocking EMS Vehicles at Hospitals.** Following an emergency response, EMS agencies



may restock their EMS vehicles with controlled substances from a hospital without completing CSA order forms

- **Maintenance of Controlled Substance Records.** EMS agencies must follow record requirements stated in the CSA.²⁰ These requirements include recording all deliveries of controlled substances and storing records in the locations where controlled substances are received, administered, and discarded.
- **EMS Agency Liability.** EMS agencies, under their medical director's supervision, are now liable for ensuring the proper use, maintenance, reporting, and security of controlled substances used by the agency
 - > 1) be authorized to do so by state law and
 - > 2) have a standing order¹⁵ or verbal order¹⁶ from a medical director or an authorizing medical professional



Important PPAEMA Information for Pharmacists and Patients

More details found at https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/21cfr/cfr/1306/1306_11.htm

In the case of an **emergency situation**, as defined by the Secretary in §290.10 of this title, a **pharmacist may dispense a controlled substance listed in Schedule II upon receiving oral authorization of a prescribing individual practitioner, provided that:**

- (1) The quantity prescribed and dispensed is **limited to the amount adequate to treat the patient during the emergency period** (dispensing beyond the emergency period must be pursuant to a paper or electronic prescription signed by the prescribing individual practitioner);
- (2) **The prescription shall be immediately reduced to writing by the pharmacist** and shall contain all information required in §1306.05, except for the signature of the prescribing individual practitioner;
- (3) **If the prescribing individual practitioner is not known to the pharmacist, he must make a reasonable effort to determine that the oral authorization came from a registered individual practitioner**, which may include a callback to the prescribing individual practitioner using his phone number as listed in the telephone directory and/or other good faith efforts to insure his identity; and
- (4) **Within 7 days after authorizing an emergency oral prescription, the prescribing individual practitioner shall cause a written prescription for the emergency quantity prescribed to be delivered to the dispensing pharmacist.** In addition to conforming to the requirements of §1306.05, the prescription shall have written on its face “Authorization for Emergency Dispensing,” and the date of the oral order. The paper prescription may be delivered to the pharmacist in person or by mail, but if delivered by mail it must be postmarked within the 7-day period. Upon receipt, the dispensing pharmacist must attach this paper prescription to the oral emergency prescription that had earlier been reduced to writing. For electronic prescriptions, the pharmacist must annotate the record of the electronic prescription with the original authorization and date of the oral order. **The pharmacist must notify the nearest office of the Administration if the prescribing individual practitioner fails to deliver a written prescription to him;** failure of the pharmacist to do so shall void the authority conferred by this paragraph to dispense without a written prescription of a prescribing individual practitioner.
- (5) **Central fill pharmacies shall not be authorized under this paragraph to prepare prescriptions for a controlled substance listed in Schedule II upon receiving an oral authorization from a retail pharmacist or an individual practitioner.**



Requesting DEA Assistance for Controlled Substance in Disasters

More details found at https://www.dea diversion.usdoj.gov/disaster_relief.htm

The Drug Enforcement Administration, Diversion Control Division, has established this link for assistance by DEA Registrants with Domestic (or International) disasters, such as hurricanes, earthquakes, floods, tornadoes, and typhoons.

Requests for DEA (Federal) assistance typically involves but is not limited to the following:

- the relocation of your DEA registered address to a new location
- the approval of a new address to dispense controlled substances
- the destruction of controlled substances which have been damaged due to the disaster
- questions concerning the destruction of damaged controlled substance inventory
- a list of Reverse Distributors who can assist with the destruction of damaged controlled substances
- assistance with obtaining controlled substances from a wholesaler
- the transfer of an existing DEA registration number from an out of state location to the state where the disaster has occurred
- may be relayed through the DEA website 24 hours a day