

Controlled substances information

A prescription (Rx) drug is a drug that can only be legally obtained from a pharmacy with a prescription from a registered medical practitioner. A medical practitioner has extensive medical training and is licensed to practice medicine. Medical practitioners who commonly prescribe medications include medical doctors, physician assistants, and dentists.

Prescription drugs are regulated under various laws in the US, including the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and the Controlled Substances Act.

The Controlled Substances Act (CSA) regulates the manufacture, importation, possession, use, and distribution of certain substances, including prescription drugs.

The CSA created five schedules or classifications of substances. Scheduling criteria for substances include potential for abuse, currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States, and international treaties. Generally, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) determine which substances are added or removed from the different schedules.

