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NCDHHS Drug Control Unit (DCU) Registrant Newsletter

DCU News



Issue Topics

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Legislative Highlight

10 NCAC 26E .0406

In November 2025, this rule was amended allowing for disposal of unused controlled substances from nursing homes by two additional methods; reverse distribution and collection receptacles.

Legislation Tips

Pharmacies must maintain records of disposal or destruction for a minimum of two years.

Disposal and destruction records of unused controlled substances must be documented on the form "Record of Controlled Substances Destroyed Pursuant to Rule 10A NCAC 26E .0406".

Pharmacies must be authorized by the DEA as collectors to utilize a collection receptacle for unused controlled substances in a nursing home.

Updated Renewal Registration Reminders

In accordance with § 90-101 (a) all registered entities that meet the requirements to be registered must renew their controlled substance registration annually. Beginning in 2026, the Drug Control Unit has begun implementing a new process for letting registrants know that their renewal registration period has begun and how they can renew.

There are three renewal periods for registrants based upon their geographic region:

Southern Region 06/01-07/31

Northern Region 09/01-10/31

Central Region 11/01-12/31

During their registration period, facilities may receive up to four registration renewal reminder letters from the Drug Control Unit. The first three letters are sent via email; the fourth letter is sent by email and certified mail.

To ensure that your facility receives communications from the Drug Control Unit, please contact our team if you have made administrative changes.

To provide additional information about the updated renewal registration reminder process, the Drug Control Unit is hosting a webinar during each renewal period. The first reminder letter emailed to facilities will contain the webinar date, time, and link to join.

Renewal applications are available on the NCDHHS Controlled Substances Regulatory Webpage and should be submitted as an email attachment to nccsareg@dhhs.nc.gov in an editable PDF file format.

Renewal registration fees may be paid by electronic payment (credit card) or check. After a renewal application has been received a payment portal will be provided via email. At this time NCDHHS is unable to accept American Express electronic payments.

The Drug Control Unit will email your agency's primary contact a copy of the facility's renewal registration certificate after payment has processed.

NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Use Services



NC Schedule I Substance Changes

This year 10A NCAC 26F .0102 has been amended adding 12 substances to the list of controlled substances in NC classified as Schedule I. These drugs or substances are classified at the federal level by the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) for having a high potential for abuse and no currently accepted medical use.

This amendment was completed by the North Carolina Commission for Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services to conform with federal law and maintain consistency with current federal scheduling. These substances were all classified as Schedule I by the DEA since September 2025.

The 12 substances added to Schedule I include two stimulants, one hallucinogenic substance, and nine opiates.

If your facility interacts, processes, or utilizes any of the substances added to Schedule I, please contact your regional inspector as soon as possible to update your registration.

For more information please see, the DCU webpage or contact us at nccsareg@dhhs.nc.gov.

DEA 2026 Resource Guide

This month, the DEA has released its 2026 Edition Drugs of Abuse, a DEA Resource Guide. This provides important information about the harms and consequences of drug use by describing a drug's effects on the body and mind, overdose potential, origin, legal status, and other key facts.

For more information please see, www.dea.gov.

Quarterly Drug Control Unit Tips

Registration Renewal

Tip 1- Registered facilities may only renew their Drug Control Unit registration during their renewal period.

Tip 2- If your facility has had a legal name change, location change, or ownership change you will need to submit a new application.

Tip 3- The form titled "Applicant Disclosure of Loss, Diversion or Destruction of Controlled Substances" is no longer in use or required.

We want to hear from you!

If you have any questions for the Drug Control Unit or topics you would like to see featured in the newsletter, please let us know by contacting nccsareg@dhhs.nc.gov.



EYE ON IT

Upcoming Key Dates

Renewal Registration Webinars

09/14 11:00AM

11/9 10:00 AM

ReWorld Witnessed Destruction

10/20/2026

NCDONA Conference: NCDHHS Drug Control Unit Session

10/14/2026

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NCDHHS Controlled Substances Regulatory Webpage

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