



# Guide for Proper Identification and Disposal of Controlled Substance Wastage in CsRx® Containers

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) strongly encourages all DEA-registered practitioners to adhere to security controls and procedures to mitigate the risk of controlled substance wastage being diverted.

Controlled substances [are classified into five schedules](#), from Schedule I ([highest risk for abuse and dependence](#)) to Schedule V (lowest risk). Common prescription opioids like oxycodone, hydrocodone, and morphine are considered Schedule II drugs.

Secure disposal units, such as CsRx® containers, are an important tool for managing leftover controlled substances that are prescribed, dispensed, and for immediate administration at that location post administration to a patient—known as wastage. These containers help prevent drug diversion and, because they're incinerated, also keep harmful chemicals out of our water systems.

## Is CsRx® the right solution for your facility? Consider these questions:

Are you a DEA registrant (meaning do you have a license to prescribe and dispense controlled substances)?



Are you looking to dispose of wastage (NOT controlled substance inventory)?



Eligible for CsRx®

Not eligible for CsRx®,  
Seal&Send™ Consumer Medication  
Mail Envelopes, and MedDrop™  
Medication Collection Kiosks

Learn more about [Stericycle's CsRx® Controlled Substance Waste Service](#), which is designed to help facilities mitigate drug diversion by securely collecting controlled substance wastage.

**Before disposing of any controlled substances, make sure you and your team understand which items can be placed in a CsRx® container and which cannot. Follow the guidelines below to stay compliant and safe.**

### ✓ Controlled Substances That Can Go in CsRx® Containers

Waste generated from administration of controlled substances Schedules II-V can be disposed of in CsRx®

#### Some examples:

- Partial vial or syringe of testosterone post administration at a clinic
- Fentanyl patch removed from a patient at an ambulatory surgery center
- Partial syringe of Dilaudid post administration at a practitioner's office
- Partial IV or PCA pump of morphine post administration from a hospital surgical area
- Partial compounded controlled substance medication post administration in a direct patient care setting

### ✗ Controlled Substances That Can NEVER Go in CsRx® Containers

- Controlled substance inventory
- Schedule I controlled substances with no currently accepted medical use per the DEA, including Heroin, LSD, Ecstasy, and Marijuana
- Controlled substances from ultimate users

#### Some examples:

- Expired vial or prefilled syringe of testosterone at a clinic
- Box of fentanyl patches in an ambulatory surgery center
- Full/unopened vial of Dilaudid at a practitioner's office
- Expired vials of morphine from a hospital pharmacy
- Unopened cups of methadone at a narcotic treatment center
- Partial controlled substance not utilized in a compounded medication in pharmacies