



Board of Pharmacy

DEA Regulations for Emergency Medical Services

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) officially published its long-awaited final [rule](#) implementing the Protecting Patient Access to Emergency Medications Act of 2017 (PPAEMA) on February 5, 2026. The rule, effective March 9, 2026, requires all EMS agencies that are not owned or operated by a hospital to obtain a controlled substance registration from the DEA. DEA created a new “Emergency Medical Services Agency” registration category, with a three-year fee equal to other dispenser registrations (\$888). The rule also includes federal requirements for the security and recordkeeping of controlled substances by EMS agencies.

The Board is aware that such a short turn-around time may be difficult for some Ohio EMS agencies that do not currently hold their own registration from the DEA, as they have been obtaining controlled substances under a hospital registration through drug exchanges.

Please be advised that any current inspections of existing EMS agencies by the Board will serve to educate licensees on this requirement and will not result in a citation. This enforcement discretion also applies to hospitals that may be providing EMS agencies with controlled substances using drug exchanges. Any change in this enforcement discretion will be communicated to licensees with advanced notice.

For more information on these new federal regulations, the Board developed this guidance document: www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/EMSDEA.



People call, text, and chat the 988 Lifeline to talk about a lot of emotional needs—not just thoughts of suicide. Whatever your reason, the #988Lifeline is there to help. There is hope.



Ohio Board of Pharmacy
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