Drug Classifications Chart

Overview

A Drug Classification Chart is a clinical reference tool used by healthcare professionals to identify and categorize controlled substances based on the DEA's Controlled Substances Act (CSA). The chart organizes drugs into five distinct schedules (Schedule I–V) according to their potential for abuse, accepted medical use, and risk of dependence. It aids in medication review, patient assessments, and compliance with federal prescribing regulations. This structured overview supports safe prescribing practices and helps ensure that controlled substances are administered appropriately within medical settings.

Drug Classifications Chart (based on DEA schedules I–V)

Schedule	Definition	Medical use	Abuse potential	Dependence risk	Common examples
Schedule I	No currently accepted medical use in the U.S.	✖	High	Severe physical and/or psychological	Heroin, LSD, marijuana (federal), MDMA, psilocybin, bath salts, methaqualone
Schedule II	Accepted medical use under strict regulation	✔	High	Severe physical and/or psychological	Oxycodone, fentanyl, morphine, amphetamine, methadone, cocaine, hydrocodone
Schedule III	Accepted medical use	✔	Moderate	Moderate physical and/or psychological	Ketamine, anabolic steroids, buprenorphine, codeine (90 mg/dose), testosterone
Schedule IV	Accepted medical use	✔	Low	Limited physical or psychological	Alprazolam, diazepam, lorazepam, zolpidem, modafinil, phenobarbital, suvorexant
Schedule V	Accepted medical use	✔	Lowest	Very limited physical or psychological	Robitussin AC, Lomotil, Motofen, antidiarrheals with diphenoxylate

Instructions for use

- Use this chart to quickly reference the DEA drug schedule classification of a substance.
- Confirm the latest federal scheduling via DEA's Controlled Substances List or state-specific guidelines.
- This template is for clinical guidance and should be supplemented by toxicology reports or prescription history when needed.

Crane, M. (2024). *Drug classifications: Scheduling of narcotics and prescription drugs*. American Addiction Centers. https://americanaddictioncenters.org/prescription-drugs/classifications