



# ASK YOUR PHARMACIST THIS

## What schedule is my medication?

### Medication Schedule Overview

Medication schedules help classify how medications are regulated and dispensed. Depending on the medication, it may fall into one of the following categories:

- **Over-the-Counter (OTC):** Available without a prescription.
- **Behind-the-Counter (BTC):** Available without a prescription but must be requested from the pharmacist and may have purchase restrictions.
- **Prescription (Rx):** Requires a prescription from a licensed healthcare provider.
- **Controlled Substances (Schedules II–V):** Prescription medications regulated because they have the potential for misuse or dependence.
- **Compounded Medications:** Custom-prepared medications made by a pharmacist to meet an individual patient's specific needs.

### Why Is This Question Important?

- ✓ Helps you understand how your medication is regulated.
- ✓ Explains why certain medications require a prescription while others are available over the counter.
- ✓ Helps you understand refill, transfer, and dispensing restrictions.
- ✓ Allows you to understand the medication's potential for misuse, abuse, or dependence.
- ✓ Helps you plan ahead and avoid interruptions in therapy due to prescription limitations.

### What You May Learn

- Whether the medication is prescription-only or available over the counter (OTC)
- Whether the medication is a controlled substance
- The medication's controlled substance schedule (Schedule II–V)

- Refill limitations
- Prescription transfer requirements
- Quantity and dispensing restrictions
- Storage and security recommendations

### Example



**Medication:** Adderall

**Schedule:** Schedule II Controlled Substance

## Key Takeaway

Knowing your medication's schedule can help you understand how it is regulated, whether special refill or dispensing rules apply, and what steps you can take to ensure uninterrupted access to your medication.