The Investigational Drug Service (IDS) is a pharmacy unit that provides comprehensive investigational drug product (IP) storage, dispensing, and labeling services for clinical trials. The number and complexity of protocols supported by the IDS is growing rapidly because of its reputation for providing quality services. The IDS fulfills the following aspects of UNC’s research IP management: ordering, receipt, storage, temperature monitoring dispensing and/or formulation, and accountability (including accountability for IP returns). In addition, they often assist in or are responsible for randomization, blinding, and the development of protocols that involve drug administration. The manager of UNC IDS is Andrew Thorne, PharmD, MS and the current staffing of the IDS includes 9.6 full time equivalent (FTE) staff pharmacists, 9.0 FTE pharmacy technicians, and 1.0 FTE reimbursement analyst. An IDS pharmacist is assigned to each clinical research project that involves testing of pharmaceutical products.

There are currently three IDS locations. Studies involving IV preparations that are not chemotherapy or cancer-related are dispensed from the 3 West IDS, located on the third floor connector link in the Memorial Hospital; dosage forms that do not require more than minimal manipulation by IDS and are not chemotherapy or cancer-related are dispensed from Neurosciences IDS, located on the ground floor or the Neurosciences Hospital; and chemotherapy and cancer-related dispenses (oral and IV) are prepared out of the IDS embedded within the North Carolina Cancer Hospital Infusion Pharmacy (CHIP). UNC IDS uses Vestigo, a web-based accountability and IP management software, to manage all inventories, and has an onsite destruction policy for both hazardous and non-hazardous IP.

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