

Protecting, Promoting & Advancing Pharmacy Compounding

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What is Compounding?

Millions of patients have unique health needs that off-the-shelf, manufactured medications cannot meet. For these patients, personalized medication solutions – prescribed by licensed practitioners and prepared by trained, licensed pharmacists – are the only way to better health.

Working with a physician, a compounding pharmacist can meet individual needs of children, adults and animals. Whether it's an allergy to a dye or ingredient, a need for a different strength, or a preference for a different dosage form, compounding pharmacists provide patients with solutions to their medication needs.

Click below to listen to an interview with IACP's Executive Vice President & CEO, David G. Miller, RPh, to learn more about pharmacy compounding.

As Heard on The Executive Report - US Airways In-flight Radio Show



Why Compounding?

When needed medication are discontinued by or generally unavailable from pharmaceutical companies, often because the medications are no longer profitable to manufacture;

When the patient is allergic to certain preservatives, dyes or binders in available off-the-shelf medications;

When treatment requires tailored dosage strengths for patients with unique needs (for example, an infant);

When a pharmacist can combine several medications a patient is taking to increase compliance;

When a patient cannot ingest the medication in its commercially available form and a pharmacist can prepare the medication in cream, liquid or other form that the patient can easily take; and

When medications require flavor additives to make them more palatable for some patients, most often, children.

How is it Regulated?

All pharmacies and pharmacists are licensed and strictly regulated by State Boards of Pharmacy. Compounding is a core component of pharmacy and always has been regulated by state boards, which are constantly updating their standards and regulations.

In addition, standards set by the United States Pharmacopeia (USP) are integrated into the practice of pharmacy compounding. The Pharmacy Compounding Accreditation Board (PCAB) has developed national standards to accredit pharmacies that perform a significant amount of compounding.

Compounding – The Numbers

1. The compounding industry now makes up an estimated 1 to 3 percent of the U.S. prescription market, which is \$300 billion overall.
2. A national survey of independent pharmacists showed that 76 percent compound medications for patients.
3. Virtually 100 percent of hospitals compound medications.
4. Virtually all home health specialty pharmacies compound.
5. All nuclear pharmacies compound.

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