

in every field
of medicine, there are
some patients
who don't respond
to traditional methods
of treatment



Sometimes they need medicine at strengths that are not manufactured by drug companies. Sometimes they simply need a different method of ingesting a medication.

Pharmaceutical compounding meets these needs. It provides a way for doctors and compounding pharmacists to customise an individualised prescription for the specific needs of the patient. From combining multiple medications into a single convenient dosage for hospice patients to delivering children's cough medications through a cherry-flavoured lozenge, compounding provides solutions to needs not easily met by commercial products.

Ask your doctor or pharmacist today about customised compounding, or read on for more information.

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Questions about Compounding



Professional Compounding
Chemists of Australia

For more information
please contact:

Your local compounding pharmacist:



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frequently
asked questions
about custom
prescription compounding



frequently asked Questions:

What is compounding?

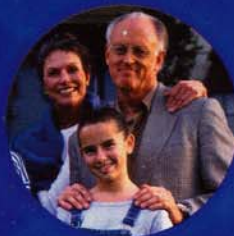
How does compounding benefit me?

Can my child (or my elderly parent) take compounded medication?

What kinds of prescriptions can be compounded?

Is compounding legal? Is it safe?

Does my doctor know about compounding?



Pharmacy compounding is the art and science of preparing customised medications for patients. Its practice dates back to the origins of pharmacy; yet, compounding's presence throughout the pharmacy profession has changed over the years. In the 1930s & 1940s, approximately 60 percent of all medications were compounded. With the advent of drug manufacturing in the 1950s and 60s, compounding rapidly declined. The pharmacist's role as a preparer of medications quickly changed to that of a dispenser of manufactured dosage forms. Within the last two decades, though, compounding has experienced a resurgence, as modern technology and innovative techniques and research have allowed more pharmacists to customise medications to meet specific patient needs. Today, an estimated one percent of all prescriptions are compounded daily by pharmacists working closely with

There are several reasons why pharmacists compound prescription medications. The most important one is what the medical community calls "patient non-compliance." Many patients are allergic to preservatives or dyes, or are sensitive to standard drug strengths. With a doctor's consent, a compounding pharmacist can change the strength of a medication, alter its form to make it easier for the patient to ingest, or add flavour to it to make it more palatable. The pharmacist also can prepare the medication using several unique delivery systems, such as a sublingual troche or lozenge, sprays, or a transdermal gel. Or, for those patients who are having a difficult time swallowing a capsule, a compounding pharmacist can make a suspension instead.

Yes. Children and the elderly are often the types of patients who benefit most from compounding. Often, parents have a tough time getting their children to take medicine because of the taste. A compounding pharmacist can work directly with the doctor and the patient to select a flavouring agent, such as vanilla, strawberry or chocolate, that provides both an appropriate match for the medication's properties and the patient's taste preferences. Compounding pharmacists also have helped patients who are experiencing chronic pain. For example, some arthritic patients cannot take certain medications due to gastrointestinal side effects. Working with their doctor, a compounding pharmacist can provide them with a topical preparation of the anti-inflammatory or analgesic their doctor has prescribed for them. Compounded prescriptions often are used for pain management in hospice care.

Almost any kind. Compounded prescriptions are ideal for any patient requiring unique dosages and/or delivery devices, which can take the form of solutions, suppositories, sprays, oral rinses, lozenges and even as transdermal sticks. Compounding applications can include: Bio-identical Hormone Replacement Therapy, Veterinary, Hospice, Paediatric, Ophthalmic, Dental, Otic, Dermatology, Medication Flavouring, Chronic Pain Management, Neuropathies, Sports Medicine, Infertility, Wound Therapy, Podiatry and Gastroenterology.

Compounding has been part of healthcare since the origins of pharmacy, and is used widely today in all areas of the industry, from hospitals to nuclear medicine. Over the last decade, compounding's resurgence has largely benefited from advances in technology, quality control and research methodology. The Food and Drug Administration in the USA has stated that compounded prescriptions are both ethical and legal as long as they are prescribed by a licensed practitioner for a specific patient and compounded by a licensed pharmacy. In addition, compounding is regulated by state boards of pharmacy here in Australia.

Prescription compounding is a rapidly growing component of many doctors' practices. But in today's world of aggressive marketing by drug manufacturers, some may not realise the extent of compounding's resurgence in recent years. Ask your doctor about compounding, then get in touch with a compounding pharmacy – one that is committed to providing high-quality compounded medications in the dosage form and strength prescribed by the doctor. Through the close relationship of patient, doctor and pharmacist, all three can work together to solve unique medical problems.

Is compounding affordable?

Compounding may or may not cost more than a conventional medication. Its cost depends on the type of dosage form and equipment required, plus the time spent researching and preparing the medication. Fortunately, compounding pharmacists have access to pharmaceutical-grade quality materials which dramatically lower overall costs and allow them to be very competitive with commercially manufactured products.

Is custom compounding right for you?

Ask your doctor or pharmacist today about the benefits of personalised prescription compounding.

