



Medication Dispensary

Pharmacies compound medications to:

- Make a strength or dosage form of a medication that is not commercially available
- Flavor a medication
- Remove unwanted inactive ingredients that are toxic or allergens for pets
- Create a product that is easier and more convenient for owners to administer

How is compounding different than drug manufacturing?

Drug manufacturing is the mass production of non-patient specific medications that have been approved by the FDA so they can be distributed to pharmacies, hospitals, and veterinary offices. Both are common and acceptable practices in the veterinary and pharmacy worlds.

What is compounding?

The United States Pharmacopeia (USP) defines compounding as “the preparation, mixing, assembling, altering, packaging, and labeling of a drug, drug-delivery device, or device” as directed by a licensed practitioner to meet the needs of each individual patient. Since these products are made specifically to the prescriber’s instructions, they are not studied or approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the pharmacy often requires more time to accurately make and prepare the medication.

THIS MEDICINE WAS SPECIALLY
COMPOUNDED IN OUR PHARMACY FOR YOU
AT THE DIRECTION OF YOUR PRESCRIBER

Why is the expiration date shorter than my pet’s other medications?

Since the FDA does not approve each individual compound and compounding process, the pharmacy relies on studies and information from independent, nonprofit organizations such as USP to provide insight on how long a medication is good for since it may not contain the preservatives or other similar ingredients. By law, all compounded prescriptions have a “compounded drug product” as well as an “expiration date” auxiliary label. Like all other medications, compounds should not be used after the expiration date as they can be harmful or may not work.

**EXPIRATION
DATE :** _____

What kinds of medications can be compounded?

We compound both sterile and non-sterile compounds to meet patients needs. Non-sterile compounds include many otic solutions, intranasal solutions, oral suspensions, oral capsules, and transdermal preparations. Sterile compounds include eye medications and injections for body tissues and the blood stream.

What are the risks of compounding and how can I ensure my pet's medications are safe?

Compounded drugs can address important medication needs, but unfortunately, they have risks when it comes to safety, quality, and effectiveness since they are not FDA approved. Strength of the medication can vary per batch of medication due to differences in compounding skill and capabilities of equipment used to compound. There are also concerns for quality issues, such as contamination from equipment or the environment used to compound. This is a more significant risk for medications that are compounded as they don't go through the same end product testing that is required of manufactured products. Our pharmacists and veterinarians work very hard to follow current USP compounding practices and guidelines and have numerous safety steps and double checks in place to ensure that your pet receives the highest quality compounded medication.

References

Frequently asked questions about pharmaceutical compounding [Internet]. American Pharmacist's Association (APhA). [cited 2022Mar29]. Available from: <https://pharmacist.com/Practice/Patient-Care-Services/Compounding/Compounding-FAQs>

U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Compounding and the FDA: Q & A [Internet]. Center for Drug Evaluation and Research; 2018 [cited 2022Mar29]. Available from: <https://www.fda.gov/drugs/human-drug-compounding/compounding-and-fda-questions-and-answers>

Do you have additional questions? Please contact the University of Illinois Medication Dispensary at 217-333-5329 and provide your name, phone number, and question(s).

VETERINARY TEACHING HOSPITAL

Large Animal Clinic

Emergency, specialty, and primary care for horses and farm animals
1102 W. Hazelwood Drive, Urbana
(217) 333-2000

Small Animal Clinic

Emergency and specialty services for small companion animals
1008 W. Hazelwood Drive, Urbana
(217) 333-5300

South Clinic

Health and wellness care for dogs, cats, and zoological pets
2100 Goodwin Avenue, Urbana
(217) 244-2555

Midwest Equine

Equine-only practice that provides equine veterinary and farrier services
20844 Cumberland Road, Farmer City
(309) 928-2127