Community Pharmacy Compounding Survey
November 2012

NCPA conducted a survey to gain a better understanding of the types of compounding services that NCPA members offer as well as the extent to which NCPA members provide compounding services. Results provide important information to policy makers regarding the extent to which independent community pharmacies engage in compounding activities. Over 400 pharmacies participated in this survey, and the survey was conducted in November 2012.

NCPA represents the interests of pharmacist owners, managers, and employees of more than 23,000 independent community pharmacies across the United States. Independent community pharmacies dispense approximately 40% of the nation’s retail prescription drugs.

Key Findings:

- 85.5% of community pharmacies provide compounding services.
- Of those community pharmacies that compound, 62% compound 5% or fewer of their total prescriptions dispensed annually.
- 72% of independent community pharmacies that compound prescriptions provide non-sterile compounding services only.
- 70% of independent community pharmacies that compound prescriptions participate in ongoing training/educational courses related to compounding techniques in addition to any continuing education that may be required.

Does your pharmacy compound?

![Percent Community Pharmacies that Compound](chart.png)
Please estimate the percentage of your annual prescriptions that are compounded prescriptions:

![Percent Compounded Prescriptions](chart)

Please estimate the percentage of your annual compounded prescriptions that are sterile products:

![Percent Sterile Products](chart)
Do you participate in ongoing training/educational courses related to compounding techniques?

![Participant in Ongoing Training/Educational Courses](image)

Please include example(s) of how your compounding services make a difference in your patients' lives.

- We had a pediatric hospice patient with pulmonary hypertension. We compounded a sildenafil prescription that saved hospice thousands of dollars per month and made the suspension palatable for the child.
- A local Veterans Affairs hospital was completely out of potassium chloride and morphine injections. Neither of these was available commercially. We saved them with emergency supplies until the manufacturer had them back in stock.
- We had a pediatric patient with Menkes Syndrome which is 100% fatal. We supplied Copper injection which lengthened the baby’s life and reduced discomfort. It also allowed the mother and father time to bond and ultimately say goodbye in their own spiritual way. They could not thank us enough.
- We have a cystic fibrosis patient who would not be alive today without the compound we make for him.
- We compounded sodium fluoride tablets for a patient with Paget’s disease. This eased the patient’s pain and allowed the disease to remain at diagnosis levels.
- We made a sterile antibiotic eye drop for a patient. Without this medication, she would have lost her eye.
- We have a patient who cannot swallow properly so all his medications must be made into liquids. Tablets/Capsules get lodged in his esophagus causing damage. He was suffering prior to us compounding his medications into liquids.
• Our compounding allows patients to get custom medication in dosages and dosage forms that are not readily available. Also our BHRT (Bio-identical Hormone Replacement Therapy) products have made significant improvements in quality of life.

• We compound drugs into transdermal dosage forms to provide a less invasive way to deliver nausea medications.

• We compound medications that are not commercially available that patients often cannot do without. An example is child coming out of a children’s hospital in need of heart medications that must be reformulated from an adult’s dose to a child’s dose.

• We compound medications for hospice patients who are near death. We provide dosage forms, other than oral, so people can live their last days with less pain and anxiety.

• We make ketamine creams for foot pain that aren’t available commercially.

• I have a patient who is allergic to all dyes, preservatives, corn and gluten. She cannot take most conventional medications due to the fact that they have most of these ingredients in them. I have been able to formulate her medicines into a capsule formulation and ensure that there is nothing she is allergic to in the capsules.

• By compounding bio-identical hormones, my patients are able to feel normal, sleep well, avoid anti-depressants, and avoid other symptoms. By compounding transdermal pain gels, my patients are able to receive relief from their pain with fewer side effects than many oral drugs.

• We have quite a few patients who are able to be seizure-free because we can compound their medications into age-appropriate doses that are not commercially available.

• We provide pain relief to paralyzed patients who require special administration of medication not available anywhere on the market.