

The Mortar & Pestle

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CUSTOM COMPOUNDING

Have you ever wondered what happens in the “other room”?

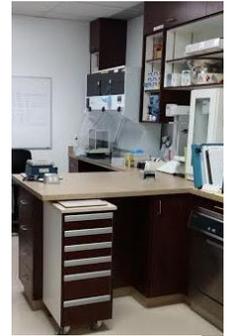
This month we will give you a glimpse into what happens in our compounding lab!

What is custom compounding?

Compounding is the art and science of mixing drugs and other ingredients to create customized medications.

Why might you require a compounded medication?

There are many reasons why you may require a compounded medication. It may be that there is no commercially available product, or the product may not be available in the desired strength or dosage form, or the product may be unavailable temporarily from the manufacturer. For example, some people have difficulties swallowing, compounding a medication that is normally available only in a tablet into a liquid. Other reasons for compounding include allergies to an ingredient in the commercial product



What dosage forms can be compounded?

At a Stafford Pharmacy we can create a wide variety of products including:

- Oral Liquids (suspensions/solutions)
- Lozenges
- Capsules
- Topical creams and gels
- Suppositories (rectal/vaginal)
- Eye drops
- Intravenous antibiotics and other sterile products (preparation of these products occurs in a sterile microsphere hood or “the big plexi-glass box with gloves”)

Do I require a prescription for a compounded medication?

Yes. A medication cannot be compounded for you or your animal without a prescription from your physician or veterinarian. The prescription must specify the strength/dose and instructions for use no different than any other prescription written for a commercially available product.



How long does it take to prepare a compounded prescription?

Typically we require 24-48 hours to prepare a compounded prescription. However, in emergency situations we work within the timelines needed to do what’s best for the patient.

For more information on compounding speak with a member of our pharmacy team today!

COMPOUNDING FOR INFANTS AND CHILDREN

Custom compounding is essential for the treatment of some conditions in infants and children. At Stafford Pharmacy we are experienced in creating medications in very small doses that are palatable for newborns and young children.

More often than not, when a young child requires a prescription medication, the dose they need is unavailable commercially. Or, it is in a form such as a large tablet that the child will not be able to take. In these cases we are able to prepare a concentrated liquid that tastes good in order to make administering medication much easier for parents and caregivers.

Having a great tasting medication can make the worst part of a sick child's day much better. Compounding is both an art and a science and in many cases a formula must be made, tested, re-made and tested again before it is good enough to dispense. We take the time to taste test all medications that we create for children. After all, if we won't take it, how can we expect a child to? We have flavours ranging from raspberry and tangerine all the way to bubble gum and marshmallow. In some cases (when the drug is particularly bitter) a combination of 3 flavours is used to mask the taste. As a result we have created some unique flavours that we can proudly say were developed and tested in our own lab and are unique to Stafford Pharmacy.



Working closely with a compounding pharmacy like ours your child's pediatrician or physician can prescribe medications for: acid reflux, pain relief, respiratory disorders, oral thrush, diabetes, diaper rash, skin disorders, cold sores/fever blisters and much more!

VETERINARY COMPOUNDING

Can I have my pet's medication filled at Stafford Pharmacy too?

Yes, you just may be able to! You may be surprised to learn that many of our patients are animals! We have made medications for not only cats and dogs but also parrots, ferrets, lizards, hamsters, snakes and so many more. We have even made medication for a crow!

Why would you want your pets prescription made at our pharmacy?



In our compounding lab we are able to make customized dosage forms specifically for your animal. This can include anything and everything from beef flavoured oral liquids and treats to chicken flavoured capsules. Often for cats, we make their medication in a transdermal form so it can be rubbed onto their ears! This can save cat and cat owner a lot of frustration, and Band-Aids™ when it is medicine time.

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Content/Writer: Jaclyn Katelnikoff, Clinical Pharmacist

Reviewer: Igor Shaskin, Clinical Pharmacist

Editor: Pete Christensen, Clinical Pharmacist