

Allen's Compounded Formulations.

Allen LV Jr. American Pharmaceutical Association, Washington, DC, 1999.
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Pharmaceutical compounding today is most often practiced in direct response to the specific requirements of a patient whose needs are not met by ready-made products. Any pharmacist who is regularly faced with the task of compounding new and exotic patient-specific medication, whether in a hospital or a community setting, will benefit from the tips and ideas expressed in this publication.

The volume contains a collection of compounding formulations and columns published in the *U.S. Pharmacist* from 1995 to 1998. The formulations, 47 in total, are arranged according to disease state and medical indication but are also cross-indexed according to dosage form. These formulations cover a full spectrum of dosage forms, some very creative and innovative, mostly nonsterile, meant for oral use and topical application. Included are capsules, gels, inhalation products, lozenges and troches, nasal preparations, ointments, creams, pastes, powders, solutions, sticks, suppositories, and suspensions.

The entry for each formulation includes method of preparation, use, packaging, labelling, stability information, and references. The author has also included an extensive discussion alongside each entry, where he explains the rationale for the formulation and describes additional preparation and administration techniques.

Some formulations can serve as templates or starting points for preparing one-of-a-kind dosage forms. Experience gained when preparing etodolac suppositories, for instance, could readily be applied to the compounding of other suppository products.

The author has recently published a comprehensive textbook, *The Art, Science, and Technology of Pharmaceutical Compounding* [reviewed in the October 2000 issue of *CJHP* (2000;53:276,280)]. Therefore, this collection of 47 formulations is not meant to provide a thorough discussion of theory and basics. It is limited in scope and does not have a useful or detailed index for quick reference.

The busy hospital or community pharmacist searching for answers and easy solutions to his or her compounding dilemmas will not find this collection particularly useful. However, the volume makes for interesting and informative reading, and it could inspire pharmacy practitioners to experiment and to expand the services they provide to their patients.

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