



Specialty Medicine Compounding Pharmacy

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Competent Compounding

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Specialty Medicine Awarded National Accreditation

Over one year ago the staff and I here at SMCP began the process of seeking accreditation from the Pharmacy Compounding Accreditation



Board, PCAB for short. PCAB is a non-profit organization formed by the eight national pharmacy organizations. These groups recognized the need for pharmacy itself to establish standards for compounding pharmacies to work by. I am proud to say that we have completed the PCAB requirements and have received national accreditation! What does this mean for you? It means that you can rest easier knowing that we're abiding by the newly established standards for compounding pharmacies and have made improvements to our processes and facilities to serve you better. What kinds of improvements? Let me share a little about our experience, since much of the work that PCAB required us to do was behind the scenes, in places and ways that many of

you would never have noticed. We began a complete overhaul of our policies and procedures manual. This alone was a daunting task that had me wondering on more than one occasion why I was doing this. The answer was easy; I have always strived to make sure that every venture I was involved with was top notch.

The accreditation process validated something for me that I had always believed – that we were doing many things well. I also learned that there were places where improvement was needed.

Long before accreditation was even dreamed of I knew there were things that I had to do to make my pharmacy better and safer for my employees. One of the first changes many of you noticed and commented on. That was our remodel about 3 years ago. The lab area was expanded, making room for new equipment. The picture at the top of the next column shows the three particle containment hoods that we added during the first remodel.

These hoods protect employees from breathing in the chemicals that we work with on a daily basis. They also serve a second function of preventing cross contamination between the different compounds being



made at the same time. We also evaluated our sterile compounding room and made changes to it to ensure that it met current requirements. New ceiling tiles were installed, a positive pressure system was installed and a gowning room, called an ante-room was installed. The picture at the bottom of this column shows the remodeled sterile room. After the accreditation process was started I realized a need to start to validate the processes we had in place. Those





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changes would be transparent to you, but something that you would be very appreciative of. We have been certifying our clean room hood since our inception but with the pending accreditation we started to also validate our containment hoods. Certification ensures that they are in proper working order. We also began to certify our other equipment. Every day we calibrate our digital scales. Our digital scales are attached to printers. Every item that is weighed is printed on a "receipt" that is attached to the formula worksheet. Three sets of eyes check and validate every weight of every chemical in every compound. Our scales are also validated. Once a year an outside scale company comes into our pharmacy and validates the scales that we use in the compounding of your prescriptions. Our employees have also undergone an extensive re-training. They were all required to watch compounding technique videos and videos on proper use of the many pieces of equipment that we use in the pharmacy. After watching the videos they were given a written

test to ensure that they understood what they had just watched. We also began a program to test our finished products. Capsules are tested on a monthly basis for potency. Stock solutions and powders are being tested to ensure potency over a period of time. Creams have even been tested to ensure potency at extended lengths. We even extended our quality program to examine our chemical suppliers. Every chemical that enters our store is quarantined until a Certificate of Analysis is obtained on that chemical. Every C of A is reviewed by a pharmacist before it is put into stock to be used. If there is a need to adjust formulas based on chemical potency or other variables they are made at that time. All in all, it has been a long process. However, we are very proud of this accomplishment! It will help us to provide you with even better service in the years to come. I needed a filler picture for this space. Here is a picture of my

dad and I fly fishing up north this past summer.



Dr. Jerrold Weinberg To Speak
at Specialty Medicine
Compounding Pharmacy

We are honored to announce our November Health and Wellness Seminar. Dr. Jerrold Weinberg will be our featured speaker on Tuesday, November 13 at 7pm at the pharmacy. Dr. Weinberg has extensive experience in the use of bio-identical hormones. Dr. Weinberg will share his insight into this arena as well as share success stories of some of his patients. Be sure to sign up at our website. You can also obtain a copy of the flyer while you are there. Sign up early as space at the pharmacy is limited to the first 20 registrants. We will serve healthy snacks and refreshments.

The demands of modern compounding have led to the creation of pharmacies devoted solely to this art. Specialty Medicine Compounding Pharmacy has been serving your community for over seven years. Here we spe-

cialize in bio-identical hormone replacement therapies and veterinary medicine, to name a few. We have all the facilities and equipment needed to make anything from topicals to capsules and sterile injectables. We do not ac-

cept insurance, but do provide claim forms with prescriptions we fill. So, next time a patient wants a compound you're unsure of - we'd be happy to serve them!

