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دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة
وزارة الصحة
قطاع الصيدلة والتموين



دليل التصنيع الجيد في التحضير للمستحضرات الصيدلانية بالمستشفيات

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United Arab Emirates
Ministry of Health
Pharmacy and Supply Sector

2002



A GUIDE TO GOOD MANUFACTURING PRACTICE (GMP)
FOR THE COMPOUNDING OF

This book "Guide to Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) for The Compounding of Pharmaceutical Preparations in Hospitals" result of much hard work For this 2002 edition. We gratefully acknowledge the contributions of...

Dr. Easa Bin Jakka Al Mansoori	Director of Drug Control Department
Dr. Khalid Ibrahim Nashat	Head of Technical Affairs Section
Dr. Micheal Fahey	Pharmacy advisor-Drug Control Department

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In the Name of God The Merciful

**Introduction by His Excellency The Minister
of Health**

The support of his highness the President of the United Arab Emirates the Father Shaikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nehyan (God Bless Him) to the health services, that are provided by the Ministry of Health, have put this country among the countries of the developed world where the medical services to people constitute a priority. That, involved the pharmaceutical services to supply medicine including both ready made and freshly formulated pharmaceutical preparations.

The documentation of Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) for preparing fresh pharmaceutical preparations will provide the work guide to manufacturers to produce the best quality products.

We hope that this book will be useful for all preparation units and hospital pharmacies and will help in standardizing this practice.

**Hamed Abdul Rahman Al Midfa
Minister of Health**

Introduction by the Directorate of Drug Control Department

The wise leadership in the United Arab Emirates has devoted its utmost interest in providing high standards of medical services in all hospitals in the country and that included dispensing and sometimes compounding of medicine if the latter was required.

The Ministry of Health through the Directorate of Drug Control supervises the technical aspects of the activities of preparation units located in Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Al Ain. The decision of publishing this book was taken after field visits to these units. This guide describes the standard applications that should be employed not only in these preparation units but also in all hospital pharmacies where the staff of pharmacists is able to compound these preparations.

Types of pharmaceutical preparations distributed to hospitals range include lotions and ointments for topical use and mixtures for internal use in the treatment of clinical symptoms such as flatulence and constipation.

Due to the fairly large volumes of these preparations involved, it can be considered as a limited industrial production and therefore, it is necessary to employ the correct procedures in that production and according to written criteria and Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) methodologies.

Dr. Easa Ahmed Bin Jakka Al Mansoori
Director of Drug Control Department

INTRODUCTION

Pharmacists are the only health care providers formally trained in the art and science of compounded medications. Therefore, the medical community and patients expect pharmacists, to possess the knowledge and skills necessary to compound preparations that are required by patients but for which there is not a commercial alternative.

The basic requirement for good compounding and dispensing practice in pharmacies is that all procedures should be clearly defined and be capable of achieving the specified requirements. It is necessary that appropriate personnel, premises, procedures, equipment and materials are utilised according to the requirements for the individual preparation.

In real terms this means that a pharmacist should not contemplate compounding a medicine unless she/he has a clear idea of what standard the finished medicine has to meet and can ensure that the appropriate facilities are available in which to compound such a product.

Each and every aspect of compounding and dispensing should be carefully considered and developed to ensure that appropriate standards are being achieved.

This document is based upon the UAE Guidelines for Good Manufacturing Practice and provides the basic requirements necessary to safeguard the quality of compounded and dispensed medicines. If these principles are put into practice they will provide a high degree of assurance that the procedures used will result in products of suitable quality.

These guidelines for GMP apply to the:

- ◆ preparation of a medicine for an individual person.

- ◆ small scale batch preparation of a medicine.
- ◆ repackaging of a medicine.

In these guidelines considering compounding to involve small-scale batch manufacturing where the batch does not exceed:

- ◆ 2.5 litres of an oral or topical liquid;
- ◆ 2 kilograms of a cream, ointment or powder;
- ◆ 100 capsules, suppositories or other single solid dose forms;
- ◆ 50 repackaged units (Repackaging requires the same documentation as small scale compounding).
- ◆ A frequency of preparation more than once a week, unless the previous batch has been used in that period.

Compounding on a scale greater than this should be prepared in a unit able to fulfil the entire GMP guidelines.

These guidelines are not intended to cover compounding of medicine that is required to be sterile preparation of small scale aseptic manufacturing e.g. parenteral nutrition and IV additives is subject to special guidelines.

Chapter One



DEFINITIONS

GLOSSARY

Definitions given below apply to the words as used in this guide. They may have different meanings in other contexts.

AUTHORISED PERSON

Person recognised by the authority as having the necessary basic scientific and technical background and experience.

BATCH

A defined quantity of starting material, packaging material or product processed in one process or series of processes so that it could be expected to be homogeneous.

BATCH NUMBER

A distinctive combination of numbers and/or letters which specifically identifies a batch.

BULK PRODUCT

Any product which has completed all processing stages up to, but not including, final packaging.

CALIBRATION

The set of operations which establish, under specified conditions, the relationship between values indicated by a measuring instrument or measuring system, or values represented by a material measure, and the corresponding known values of a reference standard.

COMPOUNDING

All operations involved in the preparation of a pharmaceutical product, from receipt of materials, through processing and packaging to its completion as a finished dose form.

CROSS-CONTAMINATION

Contamination of a starting material or of a product with another material or product.

DISPENSARY

A room, rooms or area where dispensing and/or compounding is undertaken.

DISPENSING

The count and pour operation required to fulfil an order for a medicine.

FINISHED PRODUCT

A pharmaceutical product which has undergone all stages of production, including packaging in a final container.

MANUFACTURE

All operations of purchase of materials and products, production, quality control, release, storage, distribution of pharmaceutical products and the related controls.

PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCT

Any medicine or similar product intended for human use.

PACKAGING

All operations, including filling and labelling, which a bulk product has to undergo in order to become a finished product.

PACKAGING MATERIAL

Any material employed in the packaging of a pharmaceutical product, excluding any outer packaging used for transportation or shipment. Packaging materials are referred to as primary or secondary according to whether or not they are intended to be in direct contact with the product.

PROCEDURES

Description of the operations to be carried out, the precautions to be taken and measures to be applied directly or indirectly related to the manufacture of a pharmaceutical product.

PRODUCTION

All operations involved in the preparation of a pharmaceutical product, from receipt of materials, through processing and packaging, to its completion as a finished product.

QUALITY CONTROL See Chapter 2.

RECORD See Chapter 5.

REPACKING

The transfer of a medicine from one container to another as a batch operation limited to 50 containers per batch.

SPECIFICATION See Chapter 5.

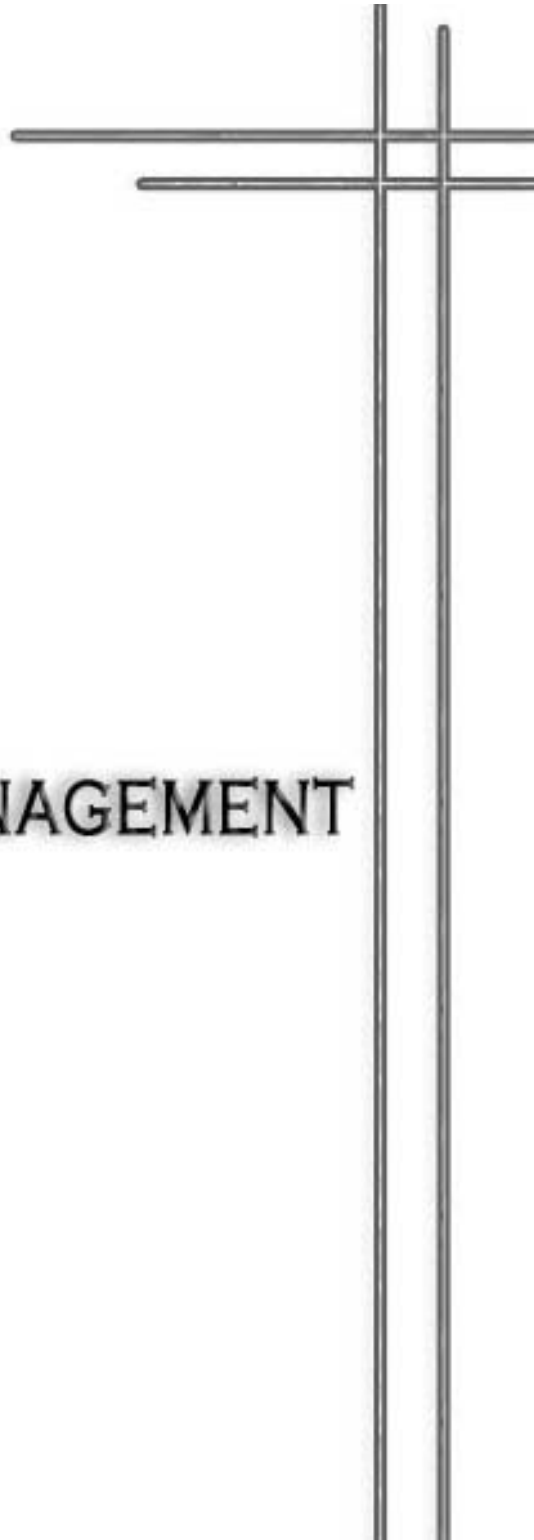
STARTING MATERIAL

Any substance used in the production of a pharmaceutical product, but excluding packaging materials. Also known as raw materials.

VALIDATION

Action of proving, in accordance with the principles of Good Manufacturing Practice, that any procedure, process, equipment, material, activity or system actually leads to the expected results.

Chapter Two



QUALITY MANAGEMENT

QUALITY MANAGEMENT

Principle

The compounding and dispensing of medicines must always be done under the supervision of a pharmacist.

The person responsible for the compounding and dispensing of pharmaceutical products must carry out these procedures so as to ensure that the products are fit for their intended use and do not place patients at risk due to inadequate safety, quality or efficacy. The attainment of this quality objective is the responsibility of management and requires the participation and commitment by all staff involved.

To achieve the quality objective reliably there must be a comprehensively designed and correctly implemented system of quality assurance incorporating good compounding and dispensing practice and quality control. It should be documented and its effectiveness monitored.

All parts of the quality assurance systems should be adequately resourced with competent personnel, and suitable and sufficient premises, equipment and facilities.

2.1 The basic concepts of quality assurance, good compounding and dispensing practice and quality control are interrelated. They are described here in order to emphasise their relationships and their fundamental importance to the compounding and dispensing and control of pharmaceutical products.

Quality Assurance

2.2 Quality assurance is a wide-ranging concept that covers all those points that individually or collectively influence the quality of a product. It is the sum total of the organised arrangements made with the object of ensuring that pharmaceutical products are of the quality required for their intended use. Quality assurance therefore incorporates good compounding and dispensing practice plus other factors outside the scope of this Guide.

The system of quality assurance appropriate for the compounding and dispensing of pharmaceutical products should ensure that:

- a)** compounding and dispensing, and control operations are clearly specified and good compounding and dispensing practice adopted;
- b)** managerial responsibilities are clearly specified;
- c)** arrangements are made for the supply and use of the correct starting and packaging materials;
- d)** all necessary validations are carried out;
- e)** the finished product is correctly processed and checked, according to the defined procedures;
- f)** products are not sold or supplied

before an authorised person has checked that each product has been produced and controlled in accordance with any regulations relevant to the production, control and release of pharmaceutical products;

- g)** satisfactory arrangements exist to ensure, as far as possible, that the pharmaceutical products are stored and handled so that quality is maintained throughout their shelf life;
- h)** there is a procedure for self-inspection and/or quality audit which regularly appraises the effectiveness and applicability of the quality assurance system.

Good Compounding and Dispensing Practice for Pharmaceutical Products

2.3 Good compounding and dispensing practice is that part of quality assurance which ensures that products are consistently produced and controlled to the quality standards appropriate to their intended use.

Good compounding and dispensing practice is concerned with both production and quality control. The basic requirements of GMP are that:

- a** all compounding and dispensing processes are clearly defined, reviewed in the light of experience and shown to be capable of consistently producing pharmaceutical products of the

- required quality and complying with their specifications;
- b** critical steps of compounding and dispensing processes and significant changes to the processes are validated;
 - c** all necessary facilities for GMP are provided including;
 - i) appropriately qualified and trained personnel;
 - ii) adequate premises and space,
 - iii) suitable equipment and services;
 - iv) correct materials, containers and labels;
 - v) approved procedures and instructions;
 - vi) suitable storage and transport.
 - d** instructions and procedures are written in an instructional form in clear and unambiguous language, specifically applicable to the facilities provided;
 - e** staff are trained to carry out procedures correctly;
 - f** records are made, which demonstrate that all the steps required were in fact taken and that the quantity and quality of the

- product was as expected;
- g** records of compounding which enable the history of a finished product be traced, are retained in a comprehensible and accessible form;
 - h** a system is available to recall any product;
 - i** complaints about products are examined, the causes of quality defects investigated and appropriate measures taken in respect of the defective products and to prevent re-occurrence.

Quality Control

- 2.4** Quality control is that part of good compounding and dispensing practice which is concerned with assessment for use of materials. These materials are not released for use, nor products released for sale or supply, until their quality has been judged to be satisfactory.

The basic requirements of quality control are that:

- a** adequate facilities, trained personnel and approved procedures are available for inspecting and assessing for use starting materials, packaging materials and finished products, and where appropriate for monitoring environmental

- conditions for GMP purposes;
- b** records are made which demonstrate that all the required inspecting and assessing procedures were actually carried out. Any deviations are fully recorded and investigated;
 - c** the finished products contain active ingredients of a quantity and quality required, and are enclosed within their proper container and correctly labelled;
 - d** no product is released for sale or supply prior to checking by an authorised person that it is in accordance with the requirements.

Chapter Three



PERSONNEL

PERSONNEL

Principle

Staff involved in compounding and dispensing must have theoretical pharmaceutical training, acquired practical skills and an appreciation of the importance of hygiene. The possibility of analytical control of the finished product is limited. The competence of the staff is therefore of crucial importance for the quality of the end product. Tasks and areas of responsibility should be clearly defined.

Staff

- 3.1 A registered pharmacist must have overall responsibility for the dispensing and compounding of medicines.
- 3.2 An authorised person should have overall responsibility for the quality management of the pharmaceutical preparation unit.
- 3.3 An adequate number of qualified and experienced personnel are required to maintain a satisfactory compounding and dispensing service. The pharmaceutical preparation unit manager should ensure that responsibilities placed on any staff member should not be so extensive as to compromise the quality of the preparation unit's products.
- 3.4 A staff handbook/manual should be available. It should be regularly reviewed and updated.

- 3.5 A written job description should be available for each staff member. The job description should be regularly reviewed and updated.

Training

- 3.6 The pharmaceutical preparation unit manager should define the level of qualification, competence, experience, training and supervision required by a staff member to work in a particular area.
- 3.7 The pharmaceutical preparation unit manager should ensure that appropriate training is provided for all staff to enable them to be competent in performing their particular jobs within the pharmaceutical preparation unit.
- 3.8 An introductory staff orientation and training programme should be available for all new staff members. Continuing training should also be given and training records kept.
- 3.9 Participation by staff in appropriate continuing education programmes should be encouraged.
- 3.10 The concept of quality assurance and ways of improving its understanding and implementation should be included in staff training and review sessions.
- 3.11 Staff involved in aseptic/sterile work require special training.

Personal Hygiene

- 3.12 The pharmaceutical preparation unit

manager should ensure that procedures related to health, hygiene practices and clothing are established. These procedures should be understood and practised by each staff member. Special attention should be accorded to hand hygiene and to the wearing of appropriate clothing.

- 3.13 External staff who are working in the pharmaceutical preparation unit (e.g., deliverymen, cleaners) or visitors to the pharmaceutical preparation unit should be carefully supervised to ensure they do not compromise the hygiene procedures of the pharmaceutical preparation unit.
- 3.14 In general, any unhygienic practice (including; eating, drinking, chewing and smoking or the storage of food, drink, smoking materials and personal medication) should not occur in the dispensing, compounding and pharmaceutical storage areas of the pharmaceutical preparation unit.
- 3.15 Staff members with an infectious disease, open skin lesions on exposed surfaces of the body or a condition that would present abnormal microbiological hazards to products should not be involved in compounding and dispensing or have direct contact with pharmaceuticals until the condition is corrected.

Chapter Four



PREMISES AND EQUIPMENT

PREMISES & EQUIPMENT

Principle

Premises and equipment must be located, designed, constructed, adapted and maintained to suit the operations to be carried out. Their layout and design must aim to minimise the risk of errors and permit effective cleaning and maintenance in order to avoid cross-contamination, build up of dust or dirt and, in general, any adverse effect on the quality of the product.

Premises

General

- 4.1 Each part of the premises should be suitable for its particular function.
- 4.2 Each part of the premises should be maintained in a good and hygienic condition. There should be written cleaning schedules for all parts of the premises.
- 4.3 All parts of the premises should have appropriate and effective means of air conditioning, lighting and ventilation.
- 4.4 Premises should be designed and equipped so as to provide maximum protection against the entry of insects or other animals.
- 4.5 The premises should provide adequate space for the orderly placement of materials and equipment.
- 4.6 Products and starting and packaging materials should be protected from theft, adulteration and contamination.
- 4.7 Suitable systems should be in place to deter and detect unauthorised access to the premises. If windows are capable of being opened they must be securely locked when the pharmaceutical preparation unit is closed.
- 4.8 Other than in a supervised area, the public should not have access to areas where drugs, medicines and raw materials are stored. If it is necessary to allow someone through the medicine storage area a staff member must

escort him or her. This restriction should be considered when designing access routes for goods delivery or public access.

Compounding area

- 4.9 The compounding area should be a distinct identifiable area but does not have to be in a separate facility.
- 4.10 The compounding area should be designed and used only for dispensing and compounding.
- 4.11 Public access must be prohibited unless by special invitation. The design should discourage uninvited visitors.
- 4.12 The compounding area should be large enough to have adequate bench space and floor space as a dedicated dispensing and compounding area. Size and layout of the compounding area should allow efficient flow of work and direct staff supervision.
- 4.13 The compounding area should be uncluttered and should not contain anything that is not required for dispensing.
- 4.14 All working surfaces, cupboards and shelves should be finished with smooth, impervious and washable materials. Floors should be finished with a material that is impervious and washable.
- 4.15 Compounding stock is stored in a logical and orderly manner. If there are

windows in the compounding area, direct sunlight should not shine upon stock items.

Storage areas

- 4.16 Storage areas should be sufficient to permit the effective separation and identification of the various stored materials and products.
- 4.17 Separation of stock should be according to storage conditions and the hazard the present to employees. Inflammable products should be stored in suitable room or cabinet designed to protect against fire or explosion. Hazardous chemicals must be clearly labelled.
- 4.18 Materials should be protected from the adverse effects of temperature extremes, light, humidity or ingress of dust and rain.
- 4.19 Pharmaceutical preparations requiring refrigerated storage should be stored in a way that prevents cross-contamination. A suitable maximum / minimum thermometer should be kept in each such refrigerator. The temperature should be monitored and recorded to ensure maintenance of correct temperature.
- 4.20 The medicines refrigerator should be sited in a suitable area.

Other areas

- 4.21 Rest and refreshment rooms should be separate from other areas.

- 4.22 Adequate toilet facilities should be provided.
- 4.23 All compounding areas should have their own hand washing facilities in addition to any shared facility. The sink in the compounding area should not be used for hand washing.
- 4.24 Toilets must not open directly into the compounding area.
- 4.25 Toilet areas should not be used storage nor as a source of water for compounding.
- 4.26 There should be a notice recommending hand washing after using the toilet. Disposable towels or hot air dryers should be used for drying hands.

Equipment

- 4.27 Compounding area equipment should normally not be used for any other purpose than the preparation and dispensing of medicines.
- 4.28 Equipment and utensils should be thoroughly cleaned and maintained and adequately stored.
- 4.29 Equipment and utensils should be designed and constructed so that they are suitable for their purpose and easy to clean, in order to prevent contamination of products.
- 4.30 Balances, measuring and other equipment and utensils should be appropriate and adequate to carry out

the operations of the pharmaceutical preparation unit.

- 4.31 Measuring, weighing, recording and control equipment should be calibrated and checked at defined intervals by appropriate methods. Adequate records of such tests should be maintained. (See Annex 1).

Chapter Five



DOCUMENTATION

DOCUMENTATION

Principle

Good documentation is an essential part of quality assurance. The purpose of written procedures is to prevent errors and misinterpretation, to ensure the processes are carried out in the same way each time, to ensure that facilities and equipment are maintained to appropriate standards and to record the processing of each product.

General

- 5.1 Documentation should be simple, unambiguous and easy to read. Each master document should:
- A. State the title, nature and purpose of the document and identify the pharmaceutical preparation unit;
 - B. Have instructions that are clear, precise and unambiguous;
 - C. Be prepared by an authorised person who signs the document;
 - D. Be checked by a second authorised quality control person, if available;
 - E. When requiring the entry of data, provide sufficient space for the data and for the signature (initials) of the person confirming the entry.

All documents should be kept up to date and be revised as necessary. Any amendments should be formally authorised and signed. Outdated or superseded documents should be removed from active use and the master retained for reference.

Documents Required

Master Formula

Where a standard formula is used frequently it is advisable to have a master formula. A photocopy or reprint of the master formula should be used to make the record for the small-scale manufacturing, compounding or repackaging.

- 5.2 The master formula should be dated and include:
- a) The name of the product;
 - b) The description of the pharmaceutical form and strength of the product;

- c) A list of the ingredients together with the amount of each used;
- d) A step by step description of the compounding procedure;
- e) A list of the packaging material to be used;
- f) A sample of the label and any advisory/auxiliary labels;
- g) The assigned expiry date.

Record of compounding

5.3 A copy of the master formula should be used to make the record. The following information should be recorded:

- a) The date of the preparation;
- b) The name of the person compounding;
- c) Quantities of ingredients used;
- d) Total quantity prepared;
- e) Batch numbers of ingredients used;
- f) A unique identifying batch number;
- g) Expiry date of the finished product;
- h) Label sample.

In the case of individual compounding to a novel formula, all the same information should be recorded.

Specifications

Where appropriate there should be specifications for starting and packaging materials, and the finished products.

Specifications for starting and packaging materials

- 5.4 Specifications for starting materials and packaging material should include:
- a) A description of the material and the name and reference, if any, to a pharmacopoeial monograph;
 - b) The approved suppliers, and if possible, the original producer of the material;
 - c) A specimen of printed materials;
 - d) Storage conditions;
 - e) The maximum period of storage before expiry or the need for re-examination.

Specifications for finished products

5.5 Specifications for finished products should include all the checks the product has to conform with before release and should include:

- a) A description of the product with reference to an official compendium if appropriate;
- b) A suitable expiry date.
Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's)

5.6 Handling of pharmaceuticals should follow standard operating procedures.

Some examples of especially important activities that require standard operating procedures are:

- a) Cleaning procedures for compounding and dispensing areas;
- b) Cleaning and maintenance of equipment;
- c) Operation of equipment.

Chapter Six



COMPOUNDING

COMPOUNDING

Principle

Compounding should be carried out in accordance with systematic and precise routines, which support security in the operation. The aim of systematic routines is to achieve products that are safe, of an acceptable and consistent quality.

General

- 6.1 Frequently used methods of preparation should be written down as SOPs. Frequently prescribed formulas should be written down as master formulas.
- 6.2 All incoming materials should be checked to ensure that they correspond to the order. Containers should be cleaned where necessary.
- 6.3 A pharmacist must study any damage or contamination before taking the appropriate action.
- 6.4 Incoming materials should only be used if they meet predetermined specifications.
- 6.5 Finished products should only leave the pharmaceutical preparation unit when the products meet predetermined specifications.
- 6.6 All materials and products should be stored under appropriate conditions and in an orderly fashion.

- 6.7 In extemporaneous compounding the risk of a mix-up is of particular concern and steps should be taken to minimise this. Products should not be prepared simultaneously or consecutively in the same area unless there is no risk of mix-up or cross-contamination.
- 6.8 At every stage of compounding, preparation techniques should be used which protect the starting materials and finished products from microbial and other contamination.
- 6.9 When working with dry materials and products, precautions should be taken to prevent the generation and spreading of dust. This *is* particularly important when handling highly active or sensitising materials.
- 6.10 All products should have an expiry date assigned to them and this should be stated on the label (see 6.17)
- 6.11 Precautions must be taken to ensure that mistakes do not occur during labelling.
- 6.12 Access to the compounding area during compounding should be restricted, for hygienic reasons.
- 6.13 Normally the preparation of non-pharmaceutical products should not take place in areas intended for the preparation of pharmaceutical products.
- 6.14 Equipment used in the preparation of

non-pharmaceutical products should normally not be used in the preparation of pharmaceutical products.

Cross-contamination

The significance of the risk of contamination varies with the type of contaminant and the product being made. Amongst the most hazardous contaminants are highly sensitising materials, biological preparations containing living organisms, certain hormones, and other highly active materials. Products in which contamination is likely to be most significant are those given in large doses and/or over a long time.

6.15 Adequate precautions should be taken to prevent contamination, cross-contamination and product mix-up in all stages of preparation e.g. by:

- a) Using segregated areas for reconstitution of antibiotics or making sure nothing else is at risk of being contaminated at the time, followed by appropriate cleaning;
- b) Using effective cleaning. Ineffective cleaning of equipment is a common source of cross contamination;
- c) Keeping protective clothing inside areas where products with special risk of cross contamination are processed.

Validation

6.16 When a new method of preparation is adopted, steps should be taken to demonstrate that it achieves the expected result.

Expiry dates

- 6.17 The expiry dates of compounded preparations will, in most cases, be arbitrary, as no physical and chemical stability data will be available. The responsibility lies with the pharmacist to assess the time to expiry and the storage conditions. There are some general principles that can be applied to the problem. (See Annex 2)).

Starting Materials

- 6.18 Starting materials should be of a quality suitable for use in products intended for therapeutic use in humans.
- 6.19 Starting materials should be purchased from suppliers who know the origin of the material and who are recognised as reliable, based upon a history of deliveries which meet specifications.
- 6.20 At the point of receipt, the containers should be checked for integrity of package and seal, legibility of labelling and for correlation between the delivery note and the suppliers labels.
- 6.21 A system should be set up to ensure that all materials meet the required specifications at the time of receiving and throughout their use.
- 6.22 There should be appropriate procedures to assure the identity of the contents of each container of starting material.
- 6.23 The starting materials should be stored under appropriate conditions.

- 6.24 Only starting materials which meet required specifications, have been identified and are within their shelf-life should be used.
- 6.25 When using commercially available products e.g. tablets, capsule, injections as the starting material, it must be supplied directly from a pharmacy under the supervision of a pharmacist to ensure identity and correct storage.

Water

- 6.26 Water to be used as a starting material should be of a quality appropriate for the finished product and be handled as other starting materials.

Packaging materials

- 6.27 Packaging materials should be selected with regard to its suitability for the product it will contain.
- 6.28 The purchase and handling of packaging material should be accorded attention similar to that given to a starting material.

Packaging Procedures

- 6.29 The packing area should only contain materials associated with the process being carried out.
- 6.30 Containers should be clean before filling. If the containers are washed on site, the washing procedure has to be validated.
- 6.31 Cut labels should be avoided in favour of computer generated roll labels.

6.32 Labels should be printed so that containers can be labelled as soon as filled.

6.33 There should be good control of labels with full reconciliation at the end of a batch.

Finished Product

6.34 There must be a defined step where the finished product is compared with its specifications and released or rejected.

6.35 This decision must be made by the person taking responsibility for quality and must be recorded.

Rejected and Returned Materials

6.36 Rejected materials and products should be stored separately. They should either be returned to the supplier or destroyed.

6.37 Products returned from patients or wards should be destroyed.

Chapter Seven



QUALITY CONTROL

QUALITY CONTROL

Principle

Quality Control (QC) involves sampling, specifications and testing and also documentation and procedures that ensure that starting materials are not used and finished products not sold or supplied unless they are safe and of an acceptable quality: Quality Control involves all decisions which relate to the quality of a product.

It is considered fundamental when manufacturing medicines that the Quality Control function is independent from production. While this is desirable also when compounding and dispensing in reality this is often not possible. The pharmacists responsible for quality control are usually also involved in compounding. In this situation it is of utmost importance that other matters do not outweigh the quality aspects of compounding.

Functions

7.1 A Quality Control pharmacist should be involved in:

- i) approval or rejection of starting and packaging materials, and finished products;
- ii) evaluation of documentation
- iii) ensuring all appropriate testing is carried out;
- iv) approval of specifications, test methods and other QC procedures;
- v) ensuring that appropriate validation is carried out;
- vi) calibration of instruments, scales and other equipment.

Quality Control Laboratories

7.2 Quality Control advice can be obtained from the MOH Drug Control Laboratory.

Documentation

7.3 The following details should be available to the QC person:

- i) specifications;
- ii) testing procedures and records;
- iii) certificates of analysis and other analytical reports;
- iv) data from environmental monitoring;
- v) procedures for and records of the calibration of instruments and maintenance of equipment;
- vi) compounding records;
- vii) any documentation relating to an extemporaneously compounded product should be kept for one year after the expiry date.

Annex 1.

Weighing and measuring equipment

Weighing equipment

- A 1.1.** A compounding unit will need at least two balances
1. A torsion balance.
 2. A top loading electronic balance with a capacity of at least 300g, a sensitivity of $\pm 1\text{mg}$ and 1mg, 100mg, 1g and 100g weights for checking.
- A 1.2.** Balances should be maintained in areas of low humidity and should be stored on flat, non-vibrating surfaces away from drafts.
- A 1.3.** The performance of each balance should be documented and checked at least annually according to the manufacturer guidelines.
- A 1.4.** Weights should be stored in rigid, compartmentalised boxes and handled using forceps, not fingers, to avoid scratching or soiling.
- A 1.5.** The minimum weighable quantity should be determined for any balance used in compounding. Most class III balances are only accurate to ± 5 or 10mg. Therefore, to avoid a 5% error, quantities less than 120mg should not be weighed.

Measuring Equipment

The pharmacist must use their judgement when selecting measuring equipment.

- A 1.6.** For maximum accuracy in measuring liquids, select a measure with a capacity equal to or slightly larger than the volume to be measured. Do not measure less than 20% the capacity of the measure.
- A 1.7.** Calibrated syringes are preferred when measuring volumes of viscous liquids e.g. glycerin or oil.
- ◆ E.g. if measuring 1.5mL of a liquid, it is better to use a 3mL syringe than to use a 10mL measure.
- A 1.8.** If an opaque, viscous chemical, such as Coal Tar must be measured, it is more accurate to weigh the substance than to try to read a meniscus on a graduated cylinder or a fill line on a syringe.
- A 1.9.** For volumes smaller than 1mL, micropipettes are recommended, in sizes to cover the range of volumes measured. This way one can cover the range of 50 μ L to 1mL with a range of variable pipettes.
- A 1.10.** Conical measures are convenient for mixing liquids but the error in reading the bottom of the meniscus increases as the sides flare toward the top. Therefore, for accurate measurements, measuring cylinders are preferred. A conical measure with a capacity of less than 25mL is not accurate enough for use in the compounding of prescription medicines.

Annex 2.

Stability and Expiry dates

The expiry dates of compounded preparations will, in most cases, be arbitrary, as no physical and chemical stability data will be available. The responsibility lies with the pharmacist to assess the time to expiry and the storage conditions. There are some general principles that can be applied to the problem

A 2.1. The *USP-NF* defines stability as the extent to which a dosage form retains, within specified limits, the same properties and characteristics that it possessed at the time of its preparation

A 2.2. Stability can be discussed in five different ways:

1. Chemical
2. Physical
3. Microbiological
4. Therapeutic
5. Toxicological

A 2.3. Factors affecting stability include the properties of each ingredient, whether therapeutically active or inactive. Environmental factors such as temperature, radiation, light, humidity and air can also affect stability. Similarly, such factors as particle size, pH, the properties of water of other solvents employed, the nature of the container, and the presence of other substances resulting from contamination or from the intentional mixing of products can also affect stability.

- A 2.4.** The term expiry date, when used for compounded products, means the date after which a dispensed product should no longer be used.
- A 2.5.** The stability of a compounded product is especially critical when compounding preparations containing drugs with a narrow therapeutic range, e.g. anticonvulsant drugs, or where dosing is critical, e.g. for neonates and children.
- A 2.6.** When a commercial drug product is used as a starting material for a compounded product, its expiry date can be used as a basis for determining the expiry date of the compounded product.
- A 2.7.** In other cases, professional judgement is required. The following are useful general guidelines:
- ◆ When a manufactured final-dose form is used as a source of active ingredient, the expiry date should be **not more than 25% of the manufacturers remaining expiration date or 6 months, whichever is less.**
 - ◆ When a compendia specified chemical (not from a manufactured final-dose form) is used, the expiry should be **not more than 6 months.**
 - ◆ In all other cases, the expiry date should be the **intended period of therapy or no more than 30 days**, whichever is less.