USP <800> — The Technicians Role
by Jen Witherby, CPhT

There are a number of big things happening in pharmacy right now, and especially affected are compounding pharmacies or hybrids. Reimbursements, audits, recalls, all weigh heavily on our profession. However, nothing elicits groans from pharmacy owners, pharmacists, and technicians like the proposed USP 800. Let’s be honest—I have not read every word of the 33 pages, but I have read a good majority of it. May 31st was the final day for comments from the general public about the proposal. There is generally a six month waiting period after it is published, before adoption, and there is talk about extending that time period.

But I’m “Just a Technician”

This line rarely gets us off the hook. Trust me. I’ve tried. I think it will be even harder to employ this line with USP <800> coming down. Some pharmacies may have a technician that is solely responsible for preparing the pharmacy and staff for the changes. My pharmacy is comprised of one pharmacist, a compounding lab manager, one compounding pharmacy tech, and myself. It will take all of us, working as a team, to push towards compliance for the new provisions.

It’s important to be attentive to your pharmacist during these changes. They are surely under an added amount of stress, and anything you can do to offer assistance, will (probably) not go unnoticed. There are several great websites that dissect the proposal and give you just the “need to know” parts without all the fluff. Reading those, and familiarizing yourself with the guidelines will be helpful as they are implemented.

Hitting the Highlights

USP <800> is focused on safety for the environment and safety for the pharmacy staff with regards to handling hazardous drugs (HDs). Most of the proposals are in reference to the following issues:

- PPE equipment for personnel
- Designated procedures for cleaning and sterilization of compounding areas
- Pharmacy modifications to meet new standards (clean rooms, ventilation, etc.)
- Familiarizing staff with the NIOSH list and recognize HDs used in your pharmacy
- Environmental quality and control procedures

This list seems a bit oversimplified after reading the actual proposal, but is a good starting place for reference as to what can be expected once USP <800> is finalized.

Nothing Is More Constant Than Change

In the pharmacy profession, we are accustomed to changing and adapting. In a few years, USP <800> will just be a part of our everyday workplace routine. There will be something else out there, simmering on the horizon that we will all be talking about and preparing for. This is one more challenge that we will all rise to in order to continue to care for our patients. Just another reason I love this profession.

References


Thanks to our Corporate Members & Affiliates

ACA Corporate Members

AirClean® Systems; Analytical Research Laboratories; Attix Pharmaceuticals; B & B Pharmaceuticals; Boiron; Compound Pharmacy Marketing; EXAKT; Fagron; Fagron Academy; FlavorRx, Inc.; Freedom Pharmaceuticals, Inc; Frier Levitt, LLC; Gates Healthcare Associates; Health Engineering Systems**; Humco Compounding; In Their Face Marketing; International Journal of Pharmaceutical Compounding (IJPC); INTERPHEx; LETCO Medical**; Mallinckrodt**; MEDISCA; PennTech; Pharmacy Marketing Quarterly; Pharmacy Podcast Show; Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB); Professional Compounding Centers of America**; Return Solutions; Revolution Advisors; RXinsider; Storey Marketing; Tacit Almonds, LLC; Take Charge Lifestyle Education and The Compounders Group; Topi-Click.

ACA Corporate Affiliates

International Academy of Compounding Pharmacists (IACP); Pain Treatment Topics; Pharmacy Compounding Accreditation Board; Prescribe Wellness; RS Software; and Xenex Laboratories.

** REF Corporate Life Members
A Technician’s

Top 5 Reasons to Attend an ACA Conference

1. **Learning!**
   The pharmacy industry is going through so many changes, it’s imperative for all of us to learn all we can to stay in compliance and better care for our patients. Learning new ways of compounding, different dosage forms, new ideas, and hearing different perspectives are some of my favorite reasons to attend. ACA consistently offers conferences that present ideas representing the most current pharmacy trends.

2. **Networking.**
   It’s always fun to meet new people and it is especially nice to get to meet like-minded people in the industry. I have had the opportunity to attend a variety of conferences, and have formed valuable connections and lasting friendships.

3. **Representing technicians as a growing presence in pharmacy.**
   As the industry changes, technicians are becoming even more important in the day to day Operations. This will continue with the introduction of USP <800> and changes with <503 A> and <503 B>.

4. **Becoming a greater asset to your pharmacist and your pharmacy.**
   Conferences can be an investment. By soaking up all of the great knowledge provided, you are able to better assist your pharmacist and confidently represent your pharmacy when interacting with patients.

5. **Experiencing multiple aspects of the pharmacy industry.**
   At most conferences, you get to meet and listen to marketers, pharmacists, and physicians. It is always intriguing to learn about the industry from a different angle.

On a personal note, I can’t wait to meet all of you at the ACA Fall Pharmacy Conference in Denver!

*Jen Witherby, CPhT is the Operations Manager at Keyes’ Compounding & Wellness Center in Elk City, Oklahoma*
Join ACA at the Annual Fall Pharmacy Conference in Denver, CO August 14 - 15, 2015

Experience 11 hours of continuing education for pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, and marketers. The CE sessions will help you establish your pharmacy as a local health & wellness support center. Education, resources and marketing will help improve your patients’ outcomes and your pharmacy’s success.

**CE sessions will include:**

- **Demystifying BHRT for Your Prescribers—The 7 Principles You Need to Educate Them About**
  - Speaker - Mazen Baisa, PharmD, RPh, MDA, ABAAHP, FAARFM, CPE, FACA
- **All Disease Begins in the Gut**
  - Speaker - Dani Williamson, MSN, CNM, FNP
- **Integrative Health: Finding the ROOT Cause of Illness**
  - Speaker - Dani Williamson, MSN, CNM, FNP
- **Pharmacogenomics Testing**
  - Speaker - Angela Solis, RPh
- **Pharmacist Provided Physical Assessment in a Community Pharmacy**
  - Speaker - Roger Klotz, RPh, FASCP, FACA, FCPhA
- **Developing a Wellness Clinic in Your Pharmacy**
  - Speaker - Angela Solis, RPh

Arrive early for the Thursday evening “Meet & Greet” reception with attendees, speakers, exhibitors, and sponsors. Friday starts with a hot breakfast with the exhibitors, followed by CE sessions, the Awards Luncheon, and more CE until 5:15 p.m. You will have additional opportunities to visit with the exhibitors Friday during the refreshment breaks. Saturday starts with a hot breakfast followed by CE sessions until 12:30 p.m.

**Hotel Reservations**

The Marriott Denver Tech Center Hotel, 4900 S. Syracuse Street, Denver, CO 80237. For reservations please visit http://tinyurl.com/FallConfHotel or contact Susan Decker at 434-989-5938. The ACA group room rate is $107 plus taxes per night.

**New this year Exhibits — Thursday and Friday**


**ACA Corporate Member and Level 1 Sponsor**

B&B Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

Visit www.tinyurl.com/ACADenver for more information
New for 2015: Offered July 30-31
Compounding for Dental Preparations

In the US, only a few medications are manufactured for intraoral use. Extemporaneously compounded products are of great value in dentistry, allowing for topical application of a wide variety of medications.

This 15-hour application-based course will introduce the pharmacist and pharmacy technician to both didactic and hands-on laboratory experience in compounding for dentistry. An in-depth review of both acute and chronic disorders commonly encountered in dental practice will be paired with the compounds used to treat these conditions.

A review of OTC products for oral home care will explain the “must have” products that will compliment Rx dental drug therapy and establish your pharmacy as a referral center for local dental practitioners.

Upcoming LIVE Webinars:

Push for Credentialing: What Pharmacists Need to Know to Join or Stay Within a Network
Wednesday, July 1
1:00 PM-2:00 PM CDT
Credit: ACPE (Pharmacists), ACPE (Technicians)

July Training Classes:

Veterinary Compounding Essentials
July 17-18, ACA Training Laboratory

Fundamental Compounding & Calculations
July 23-25, ACA Training Laboratory

Comprehensive Sterile Compounding
July 27-29, ACA Training Laboratory

Compounding for Dentistry
July 30, ACA Training Laboratory

Register at www.acainfo.org/calendar

2015 ACA Class Schedule

The ACA is your source for continuing education and professional development opportunities. Visit www.ACAinfo.org/calendar for information and to register online.

August
3-4  Compounding for Natural Hormone Replacement
14-15  ACA Fall Pharmacist Conference – Denver
17-18  Compounding Options for Pain, Wound & Scar
21-22  Veterinary Compounding Essentials
27-29  3-Day Comprehensive Sterile Compounding

September
17-19  3-Day Fundamental Compounding & Calculations
28-30  3-Day Comprehensive Sterile Compounding

October
2-3  Veterinary Compounding Essentials
16-17  Compounding for Natural Hormone Replacement

November
2-4  3-Day Comprehensive Sterile Compounding
5-7  3-Day Fundamental Compounding & Calculations
13-14  Compounding for Natural Hormone Replacement
16-17  Compounding Options for Pain, Wound & Scar

December
3-5  3-Day Fundamental Compounding & Calculations
7-9  3-Day Comprehensive Sterile Compounding

Did You Know?

Technician Membership in the American College of Apothecaries is only $75/year.