**Professional Practice Standard**

*Use of Compounded Products in Veterinary Practice*

**Introduction**

Unlike licensed veterinary drugs that undergo a regulated approval process by the Veterinary Drugs Directorate of Health Canada, compounded products are not tested or approved by Health Canada and their use may be associated with greater risk. A veterinarian who engages in the preparation of compounded products assumes the same responsibility for the quality, stability, safety, efficacy and potency of the compounded product that a pharmaceutical company assumes for its approved drugs.

In Ontario, no individual other than a licensed veterinarian or pharmacist may compound drugs for administration to animals. Compounding is an accepted veterinary practice and, in certain circumstances, may be the most appropriate and effective treatment. A veterinarian must manage all potential risks and communicate such risks to the client before a compounded product is used. A veterinarian wishing to prescribe a compounded product may either compound the product him/herself or issue a prescription for the compounded product.

**Definition**

Compounding is the combining or mixing together of two or more ingredients (of which at least one is a drug or pharmacologically active component) to create a final product in an appropriate form for dosing. It can involve an Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient (API) or the alteration of the form and strength of commercially available products. It can include reformulation to allow for a
novel drug delivery (e.g., transdermal). Compounding does not include mixing, reconstituting or any other manipulation that is performed in accordance with the directions for use on an approved drug’s labeling material. [Health Canada, *Policy on Manufacturing and Compounding Drug Products in Canada*; Canadian Veterinary Medicine Association (CVMA), *Guidelines for the Legitimate Use of Compounded Drugs in Veterinary Practice*].

**Practice Expectations**

A veterinarian meets the Standard: Use of Compounded Products in Veterinary Practice when he/she:

1. Decides to prescribe a compounded product in keeping with the Decision Cascade as described in CVMA’s *Guidelines for the Legitimate Use of Compounded Drugs in Veterinary Practice*.

2. Meets the requirements of federal and provincial legislation when prescribing or dispensing a compounded product that contains a controlled drug.

3. Obtains informed consent from the client for the use of the compounded product for the animal(s) under care.

4. Provides the following information when writing a prescription:
   - generic product names, brand names (if applicable), strengths, and resulting concentrations of any drugs to be included in the compounded product;
   - quantity of the created product and directions for administration to the animal(s) including the amount, route, frequency, and duration of treatment;
   - any renewal instructions permitting refills of the prescription, including the mandatory interval between refills for controlled substances;
   - any storage recommendations;
   - a “beyond-use date” based on known stability data; if no stability data exists, the date is identical to the last date on which the treatment will be administered; and,
   - withdrawal times, if applicable.

5. Records the information required for the prescription on the label of the product, when dispensed to a client, with the word “compounded” written on the container.

6. Compounds products only in amounts sufficient for the specific animal(s).
Guide to the Standard
A separate Guide to the Standard: Use of Compounded Products in Veterinary Practice has been developed by the College. See the Resources tab on the College website at www.cvo.org.

Legislative Authority

Veterinarians Act, RSO 1990, c V.3, s. 7(1)9
Food and Drugs Act, RSC 1985, c F-27, ss 3, 8, 9, 11
RRO 1990, O Reg 1093, Part III: Drugs, s. 31 (Veterinarians Act)

Other References

Professional Practice Standard: Medical Records
Professional Practice Standard: Informed Client Consent
Guide to the Standard: Use of Compounded Products in Veterinary Practice
Guides to the Standard: Medical Records (Companion Animal, Food Producing, Equine, Poultry)
Guide to the Standard: Informed Client Consent
Health Canada, Health Products and Food Branch Inspectorate, Policy on Manufacturing and Compounding Drug Products in Canada, POL-0051, January 26, 2009
Canadian Veterinary Medical Association, Guidelines for Legitimate Use of Compounded Drugs in Veterinary Practice, 2006