

Compounding Pharmacy Fact Sheet

Purpose: This fact sheet is intended to provide clinicians, TB program staff, and anyone interested in learning how compounding pharmacies may support the treatment of patients with tuberculosis (TB) disease or latent tuberculosis infection (LTBI).



WHAT IS A COMPOUNDING PHARMACY?

A compounding pharmacy is a specialized pharmacy that can create a medication tailored to the unique needs of a patient and provide individualized services in the event of a medication shortage. There are two FDA compounding pharmacy designations:

- 503B outsourcing facilities manufacture large batches of medications with or without prescriptions and are held to rigorous FDA standards. Use this option if the compounded medication is available.
- 503A pharmacies compound prescriptions specific to individual patients. When a compounded medication is not offered from a 503B outsourcing facility, use this option.



WHEN IS A COMPOUNDING PHARMACY NECESSARY FOR TB TREATMENT?

A compounding pharmacy may be used to solve barriers in TB medication access during a medication shortage or when a medication does not meet the patient's needs.

A compounding pharmacy is used when:

- A TB medication is in shortage or discontinued.
- A patient is allergic to one or more inactive ingredients such as dyes or binders.
- A TB medication requires flavorings to make it more palatable. Note if this is the only accommodation needed, most traditional pharmacies can support this request.
- A patient requires a tailored dosage.
- A patient cannot ingest the commercially available dosage form.



HOW CAN COMPOUNDING PHARMACIES HELP TREAT CHILDREN WITH TB OR LTBI?

Administering medication to children can be difficult and medications may not be formulated to meet specific needs of children.

Compounding pharmacies can:

- Provide customized medicine in the form of flavored syrups, gummies, topicals, and lollipops which can significantly increase TB treatment adherence. Note not all compounding pharmacies offer these options readily. Prescribers should check multiple sources if seeking a specific dosage form or be flexible based on compounding pharmacy availability and medication stability.
- Address concerns related to allergies or severe side effects to inactive ingredients.
- Formulate medications to deliver appropriate pediatric dosages and concentrations not offered by commercially available products.



HOW ARE PRESCRIPTIONS FOR A COMPOUNDED MEDICATION WRITTEN?

It's advisable to reach out to the compounding pharmacy before issuing a prescription.

Prescriptions for compounded medications generally include:

- Phrase “compounded medication” written at the top of the prescription
- Reason for compounding
- Generic name of the active ingredients
- Strength or dose (i.e. mg or mg/ml)
- Ingredients to be removed or added (dyes, binders, flavoring, etc.)
- Dosage form of medication (topical, gummies, capsules, liquid, etc.)



WHAT IS THE COST OF USING A COMPOUNDING PHARMACY?

The cost for using a compounding pharmacy is dependent on factors such as the specific medication, dosage form, raw ingredients, the patient's insurance plan, and pharmacy pricing model. Compounded medications are tailored to individual patient requirements which may impact the overall cost. For example, based on estimates from the CDC, the approximate cost of a daily dose of rifampin is \$0.60 for a person weighing 60kg. In contrast, the cost for a compounded liquid form of rifampin is approximately \$8 daily. Contact the compounding pharmacy directly for accurate pricing information.



COMPOUNDING PHARMACY WEBSITE RESOURCES

Note: Only select pharmacies offer compounding services. Use the tools below to find a local compounding pharmacy.

PCCA

Findacompounder Search Tool

<https://www.pccarx.com/Resources/FindACompounder>

Alliance for Pharmacy Compounding

Find a compounding pharmacy near you

<https://a4pc.org/find-a-compounder/>

American Pharmacists Association Compounding Resources

<https://www.pharmacist.com/Practice/Patient-Care-Services/Compounding>

FDA 503b Pharmacy List

Provides the list of registered 503b pharmacies and their addresses.

<https://bit.ly/FDA503b>

Compounding pharmacies can be a good option when a specialized medication is needed, but keep in mind that compounding involves more resources and time than a standard prescription. If a prescription is not already manufactured to the specifications needed, it may take several days before the medication is ready.

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