BOOK REVIEWS


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As the demand for patient specific compounded products grows, the need for additional texts devoted to all aspects of pharmaceutical compounding must be met. In this second edition, the author has expanded concepts from the first edition related to physicochemical considerations, preparation techniques, and patient counseling for a wide variety of compounded dosage forms. For the practitioner who has a limited compounding background, chapters 1, 2, and 3 provide an introduction to basic equipment, regulatory issues, and documentation procedures for record keeping. Chapters 4 and 6 address the rationale for assigning beyond-use dates for compounded products, as well as the measures that should be in place for quality control to ensure the uniformity of compounding conditions and products. Pharmaceutical calculations are reviewed in chapter 5 using a step-by-step approach. A general overview of flavors, sweeteners, and colors is presented in chapter 7, but specific formulation suggestions are not included. Inclusion of examples of exact flavorings for specific compounded products should be a consideration for a future edition. Chapter 8 discusses preservation, sterilization, and depyrogenation at a level that exceeds most practice needs, but still provides good information.

The overall strength of the text are chapters 9–21 and 25, which address compounding the major non-parenteral dosage forms, including suppositories, gels, nasal preps, and veterinary products. Sample formulations are included. The veterinary chapter in particular provides an excellent source of material that covers all aspects of preparation including selection of administration devices. Dosing large and small animals requires vastly different devices and the author covers this area in great detail. Pharmacologic considerations and regulatory issues are also addressed.

Parenteral medications, including biotech products, are covered in chapters 22, 23, and a portion of chapter 24 in the book. Due to the availability of entire texts that describe parenteral product preparation, these chapters probably do not offer any new information to the practitioner, as does the rest of the text. However, these chapters do include SOPs related to parenteral product preparation, which is an area that pharmacists need to be more aware of to satisfy compounding documentation requirements.

This book is a good reference for practitioners since it is a well-referenced text that covers a wide variety of compounding issues. Practicing pharmacists who have not had much exposure to compounding and face a need in their practices to provide patient specific products will find the book a necessary addition to their reference library. Educators should be aware that formulations in the book are primarily geared toward the use of electronic balances, since amounts would not be weighable on a torsion balance and the time/equipment needed to prepare some of the products may hinder preparation in a teaching lab. However, the text should be included as a supplement text for the education of students in the area of compounding, especially in making students aware of regulatory issues and accurate documentation for compounded products.

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