

# Clinical Practice Updates [Compounding Pharmacist]



## Background Information

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Institution	Singapore General Hospital
Area of Specialty (if any)	Compounding Pharmacist
Years of Experience in Pharmacy/ Specialty area	21 years / 20 years

## Introduction

What are some of your day to day duties e.g. special services, rounds that are offered in your pharmacy? (Word limit: 100 words)

What we do in compounding is actually like cooking. Mixing all the ingredients together to make something new. We have to use the exact amount and follow the steps. We cannot adjust based on our experience like what chefs do. Most of our orders are placed ahead of time. Hence for a typical day, we would check our weekly schedule and prepare the worksheets. There would be new orders that are placed on the day. The calculations and labels will be checked before preparation. The product and used ingredients will have a final check before being release to requestors.

## Latest Practice Updates

As an expert in your specialty, what are some of the latest practice updates/ resources e.g. guidelines, therapies, disease states management which you would like to highlight to fellow pharmacists who want to learn more about your field of practice? Please elaborate. (Word limit: 100 words)

For cleanroom practice, we refer to the Pharmaceutical Inspection Co-operation Scheme (PIC/S) guidelines and USP 797 for compounding standards, which are currently in revision. Unfortunately, there are not many training programs available for hospital cleanroom practice and we learn from seniors on-the-job and by self-reading.

## Challenges Faced

What are some of the challenges that pharmacists working in your specialty might face and what are the approaches to overcome these challenges? (Word limit: 100 words)

1. Being expected to be able to make any preparations. We are not trained nor have the knowledge base to be able to formulate our own extemporaneous preparations. Hence for any new formulations, we would require formulation and stability details from published data or other institutions.
2. Having to trouble-shoot any issues with your cleanroom facilities, especially related to the air-handling unit. The institution's FME support is seriously lacking in this area. So you have to help yourself.

## Any Other Sharing

Is there anything else that you would like to share e.g. words of advice regarding your specialty? (Word limit: 100 words)

A piece of good news is that Compounded Sterile Preparations (CSP) Pharmacy is approved as its twelfth specialty by US Board of Pharmacy Specialties (BPS) in Feb 2018 and the certification should be available by the last quarter of 2019. This would certainly improve standards of practice. I would encourage all pharmacists practicing in this area to work towards becoming certified. Know your counterparts from other institutions well so that they can be your source of assistance and information.

Thank you for your contribution to the development of fellow pharmacists!