

## What is Compounding?

Compounding, as defined by the National association of Boards of Pharmacy, is “the preparation, mixing, assembling, packaging, or labeling of a drug or device as the result of a practitioner’s prescription drug order...based on the practitioner/patient/pharmacist relationship.

This art was the origin of today’s pharmacy practice. Pharmacists used to prepare medicines to meet the needs of each individual patient. Unfortunately, many retail pharmacists are now unable or unwilling to compound medications, often due to lack of time, necessary chemicals, equipment and the specialized training and education that is absolutely necessary to compound medications. Manufacturers have taken over the role of “making medicine”. Drugs are mass-produced in a limited number of strengths and dosage forms—due to distribution, storage, stability and profitability issues. Dosage size or strength, route of administration, or dyes, sugar, and alcohol in commercial products may restrict the number of therapeutic options that are available for a particular patient.

We have good news! Hazle Compounding specializes in compounding, preparing customized medications to meet the specific needs of our patients. Hazle Compounding’s “problem-solving specialists” work together with patient and practitioner to solve each individual’s medication problem. Like pharmacists of the past, we talk with our patients to find out how we can help them.

Hazle Compounding specializes in unique medication delivery for your unique needs. We can provide custom flavoring. We can compound capsules, oral liquids, troche (lozenges), lollipops, unique rectal and vaginal suppositories, topical and transdermal preparations. Just to name a few.

By combining the ageless art of compounding with the latest medical knowledge and state-of-the-art technology, we can offer alternatives which can help our patients to receive the medications they need, practically and conveniently. We know that when patients can take their medication as directed, they have a better chance of getting well and staying healthy.

***Bill Spear, R.Ph., CCN is a Compounding Pharmacist and Certified Clinical Nutritionist.  
He is available for personal nutritional consultations at Hazle Drugs, 1 E. Broad St.,  
Hazleton, Pa. 18201. (570) 454-2476***