Scrutinized more than ever, medication compounding adds to an organization’s risk for potentially harming patients, staff, and the environment.

Recently implemented by Michigan (see profile), many state pharmacy boards are considering mandatory certification for medication compounding as an objective validation of USP <797> standards-driven performance. In addition, several other states have passed laws requiring pharmacies performing sterile compounding pharmaceuticals to be in compliance with USP chapter <797>. In response, The Joint Commission now offers its Medication Compounding Certification to help compounding pharmacies achieve optimal safety and high reliability in compounding practices.

This new certification recognizes organizations that demonstrate excellence through compliance with Joint Commission standards for medication compounding founded on the United States Pharmacopeial Convention (USP) standards. The certification keeps pace with the latest technology and provides an independent evaluation and validation of compliance with:

- USP General Chapter 797 (process, testing, and verification of compounded sterile preparations, including recent updates)
- USP General Chapter 795 (nonsterile preparations)
- New! USP General Chapter 800 (practice and quality standards for hazardous drugs) to be implemented by July 1, 2018

The national certification was developed using input from expert pharmacists having specific expertise in sterile and nonsterile compounding.

**ELIGIBILITY**

Compounding pharmacies that provide sterile and nonsterile compounding services are eligible to apply for certification. An earned certification is good for two years. Unlike other Joint Commission certification programs, you do not need to be a Joint Commission-accredited organization to obtain this certification. The initial rollout for this program is applicable only to pharmacies operating in or shipping to states with regulations requiring compliance with United States Pharmacopeial Convention (USP®) General Chapter(s) <797> and/or <795> (demand and resource capacity will determine future rollouts to other states).

**HOW YOUR ORGANIZATION BENEFTS**

- Reduce risk and harm
- Help ensure USP compliance
- Discover and remedy hidden gaps in policies and procedures
- Engage staff in improvements
- Access to The Joint Commission’s leading practices library
- Receive the world’s most recognized “seal of approval”
LEARNING-BASED REVIEWS DRIVE IMPROVEMENTS

Risks and standards compliance are assessed during an onsite review conducted by pharmacists with specific training and experience in evaluating USP compliance. Reviewers establish a positive learning environment, using individual and system tracers to evaluate processes, personnel training, and facility design.

The Joint Commission’s Survey Analysis for Evaluating Risk (SAFER™) approach helps organizations not only identify risks but prioritize and focus on corrective actions. Teams are provided with evidence-based practices they can emulate to achieve compliance and improve performance.

The review’s duration depends on the number of locations conducting sterile compounding services within the organization; one-two days is typical for most pharmacies.

HOW TO GET STARTED

1. Get a 90 day trial of the standards by visiting our website. The standards of this certification program are aligned with the USP standards. Meeting these standards can help show your patients that you are providing quality compounded medications.

2. Conduct a gap analysis. Whether you have internal resources to conduct an assessment, or are looking for an external objective view, this is an important step in gauging compliance and priorities.

3. Contact us to apply.

HOSPITAL-BASED PHARMACIES: Contact Brian Johnson, Associate Director, Hospital Business Development, The Joint Commission at 630-792-5144 or bjohnson@jointcommission.org.

HOME CARE PHARMACIES: Contact Cynthia Cook, Associate Director, Home Care Business Development, The Joint Commission at 630-792-5121 or ccook@jointcommission.org.

THE VALUE BEHIND THE JOINT COMMISSION’S GOLD SEAL OF APPROVAL FOR CERTIFICATION

For more than 60 years, the name “The Joint Commission” has been synonymous with quality, safety, and performance improvements. Our standards are recognized as the most rigorous in the industry, our surveyors and reviewers are some of the most knowledgeable in their field, and our accredited and certified organizations rank among the top in their markets. No other “seal of approval” is as widely recognized by peers, payers, insurers, and the public as The Joint Commission Gold Seal of Approval®. The Joint Commission is committed to continuously improving the quality and safety of care provided to the public.

PROFILE

80+ MICHIGAN ORGANIZATIONS APPLY FOR MEDICATION COMPOUNDING CERTIFICATION

The Michigan Compounding Pharmacy Law of 2014 requires that licensed pharmacies performing compounding services for sterile pharmaceuticals must obtain accreditation. In response, the Michigan Board of Pharmacy approved The Joint Commission Medication Compounding Certification and expects all eligible pharmacies to complete the certification process prior to June 30, 2017.

FOCUS AREAS FOR HIGH PERFORMANCE

+ Planning
+ Selection and procurement
+ Storage
+ Ordering and transcribing
+ Preparation and dispensing
+ Monitoring and evaluation