



International Society of Pharmaceutical Compounding

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PHARMACEUTICAL COMPOUNDING IN PORTUGAL

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Pharmaceutical compounding plays an important role in the therapy. The possibility of individualizing the therapy of many patients through compounded medicines adjusted to their specific physiopathologic profiles is indeed a major advantage. Furthermore, customising the medication also increases patient compliance. The lack of some commercially available drug products is also another area in which compounding pharmacy assumes a great importance.

After a very long period characterized by a marked decrease on pharmaceutical compounding, in the early 2000s a lot has changed in Portugal on this field. In order to meet individual patient needs, Portuguese pharmacists started a set of actions within a global strategy to promote and develop pharmaceutical compounding in Portugal. Health Authorities also recognised the importance of compounded medicines and approved recently a new legal framework, which has been considered as globally positive. Nowadays, Portugal is facing a new era on compounding pharmacy, which is becoming an extremely important and necessary part of the Portuguese health care system.

The main lines of the global strategy followed in last years in Portugal to promote quality pharmaceutical compounding will be present. This strategy has strongly contributed for the goals achieved in this area of pharmacy practice. A number of successfully projects, such as the supply of technical and scientific support on compounding, the conception and edition of the Portuguese Galenic Formulary – *Formulário Galénico Português* –, the continuing education programs for pharmacists on compounding and the new law for compounding will be discussed in detail.