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## *The World of Human Drug Compounding: Hope and Change*

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### WHAT IS PHARMACY COMPOUNDING?

We gave a quick definition of *pharmacy compounding* in Chapter 1. In this chapter, we do a deeper analysis of what is pharmacy compounding. According to the Professional Compounding Centers of America (PCCA), *pharmacy compounding* is defined as follows:

Pharmacy compounding is the art and science of preparing personalized medications for patients. Compounded medications are “made from scratch”—individual ingredients are mixed together in the exact strength and dosage form required by the patient. This method allows the compounding pharmacist to work with the patient and the prescriber to customize a medication to meet the patient’s specific needs.<sup>1</sup>

Examples of pharmacy compounding are changing a medication from a solid pill to a liquid, changing or eliminating a nonessential ingredient in a medication due to allergies, or specifying exact dose(s) for both the active pharmaceutical ingredient and a specific patient. Sometimes pharmacy compounding is done to change the texture of the drug or add flavors to a medication. (Did you ever chew a pharmaceutical drug? Yuck!)

Sterile compounding is most common in the form of intravenous medications. Many groups perform the compounding of medications into