

Today, PCCA has become the independent compounding pharmacist's complete resource for pharmaceutical compounds, fine chemicals, equipment, devices, flavors, Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE)-accredited training and education, pharmacy software, marketing, business, and pharmacy consulting. Its membership includes more than 3,900 independent community pharmacists in the United States, Canada, Australia, and other countries around the world.

Order Aggregation and Supplier Sourcing

Because PCCA has more than 3,900 independent community pharmacists as its members, they have a critical mass to be able to capture the pharmacy demand (current and historical) for repeatable ingredients used in compounding and use it to forecast future demand. The ability to forecast future demand is critical to begin procurement operations.

The PCCA procurement group breaks down the forecasted demand into ingredients. It then employs a dual-sourcing strategy, making sure that there are at least two approved suppliers able to provide the needed APIs and compounding ingredients at all times. This is not as easy as it sounds, and is critical to meet the needs of patients.

The PCCA supplier sourcing strategy demands that suppliers of active pharmaceutical ingredients at a minimum are Food and Drug Administration (FDA) registered (as outlined in the Drug Quality and Security Act), have facilities that use current good manufacturing practices (cGMP) as outlined by the FDA, the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA), and the Drug Quality and Security Act, and have been approved through PCCA's quality control and R&D departments. There are also complexities in the formulation and mixing of the compounded drugs, with the slightest of differences in supplier ingredients affecting the formulation and quality of the final drug.

Once suppliers successfully go through the supplier approval process (which includes price, quality expectations, and approved transportation providers), they are ready to start receiving specific orders from PCCA for APIs and compounding ingredients. The PCCA has suppliers all around the world, from the United States to China, and from India to Australia. Order lead times and quality control are a way of life to globally source these APIs and compounding ingredients.