

**FIGURE 3.1**

Pharmacy prescription order-fill process, compound medicines view.

demand into the needed ingredients or active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) and compounding ingredients. The result is an “ingredient need sheet” to be used with ingredient/chemical suppliers. How does this work in real life? There are a few companies that compete in this area. In my opinion, the Professional Compounding Centers of America (PCCA) showcases how this is properly done.

### **PCCA: Overview\***

In 1981, an antinausea medication was discontinued by a pharmaceutical drug company. A physician challenged a Houston-area pharmacist to compound the medication for his patient. The pharmacist procured the necessary compounds to produce the needed medication. The prescription was a success. The pharmacist realized that there were many other pharmacists being challenged by physicians to produce compounded medications. This network of pharmacists, united by a commitment to meet patient needs, was the foundation of PCCA, which was incorporated in 1981.

\* This is a summary of PCCA, based on a personal visit to their Houston headquarters, interviews with member compounding pharmacy owners, and public information. It is used with permission from PCCA.