
Preface

The core role of a pharmacist is and has always been to supply the patient with the most appropriate medicines according to their needs. Patients have differing needs. Not all patients fit the ‘normal profile’ upon which the efficiencies of scale allow the pharmaceutical industry to mass produce medicines. A significant proportion of patients require medicines to be specifically made to suit their needs.¹

The pharmaceutical art of preparing medicines should be seen in the social context of guaranteeing the availability of necessary medicines to patients. The Council of Europe Resolution on pharmacy preparation² considered the preparation of medicinal products in pharmacies as indispensable for accommodating the special needs of individual patients in Europe.

Another reason for preparing in pharmacies is the fact that the pharmaceutical industry has become so international and many of the smaller national industries have been swallowed up in the process that any small effect on the supply chain leads to the observed shortages now felt in all countries around the world.

For several years pharmacists in many European countries have felt the need for knowledge, information and guidelines on the practice of preparation in the pharmacy. This was clearly put forward by experts from many European countries at the EDQM symposium on European Cooperation and Synergy and at the BEAM compounding course.³ During this course it was agreed that the knowledge for the preparative pharmacist were contained in the Dutch book *Recepteerkunde* and that this book could be used as a base for a European wide textbook on preparation in pharmacies.

The aim of Practical Pharmaceutics is to offer:

- Basic knowledge for undergraduate and graduate pharmacy students.
- Practical knowledge on the design and preparation of medicines for the pharmacists responsible for preparations in community and hospital pharmacies.
- Basic knowledge for the Qualified Person (QP) in industry and all pharmacists involved in quality assurance.
- Product knowledge for all pharmacists working directly with patients, to enable them to make the appropriate medicine available, to store medicines properly, to adapt medicines if necessary and to dispense medicines with the appropriate information to inform patients and caregivers about product care and how to maintain their quality. This basic knowledge will also be of help to industrial pharmacist to remind and focus them on the application of the medicines manufactured.

¹ Fenton May V. Preparation in the hospital pharmacy: from the past to the present and, hopefully, beyond. *Eur J Hosp Pharm* 2012;19:465–6.

² Resolution CM/ResAP (2011) 1 on quality and safety assurance requirements for medicinal products prepared in pharmacies for the special needs of patients. Available from: <https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=1734101&>

³ EAHP Academy third BEAM summit on Aspects of Compounding. 2010.

The first principal was that *Recepteerkunde* would form the basis of the book. Secondly we agreed to retain the principal of using experienced practising pharmacists from hospital and academia as authors to the chapters. In order to ensure that the book reflected the practice from across Europe, experts in the specific fields were chosen from all quarters of Europe.

Practical Pharmaceutics covers such a vast area that the production of the book would have taken many more years to complete if the Dutch starting reference work had not been there as a basis. Its first edition, edited by Harry Cox, Gerard Bolhuis and Jan Zuidema, was published in 1992 as a gift of the Dutch Pharmacists' Association KNMP to their members on the occasion of the 150th anniversary. It has been used since at both universities in the Netherlands offering the Pharmacy curriculum. The fifth edition from 2009 forms the basis of Practical Pharmaceutics.

The book is generally written in GB English but liberties have been taken where it has been considered that an adaption would make the sense easier to understand across Europe. Some of those changes are explained in the Introduction.

We owe a debt of thanks to the authors and translators who were given extremely short deadlines for their tasks, most of whom are practicing pharmacists with full time and often stressful jobs. An editorial advisory group has dutifully answered many questions about the actual situation in their countries.

The financing of such an enterprise is never easy, and we thank EAHP and both the Dutch pharmacists associations KNMP and NVZA for the foresight to invest in the book without which it would not have been produced.

Comments for improvement could be forwarded to PracticalPharmaceutics@eahp.eu

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Practical Pharmaceutics

An International Guideline for the Preparation, Care
and Use of Medicinal Products

Bouwman, Y.; Fenton-May, V.; Le Brun, P. (Eds.)

2015, XV, 878 p. 248 illus., 73 illus. in color., Hardcover

ISBN: 978-3-319-15813-6