

Minnesota Board of Veterinary Medicine

BVM BITS



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[Veterinary Practice Act](#)



Compounding Drugs



Compounding is a challenging topic for many veterinarians. As a profession, we are striving to practice a high standard of medicine but too frequently face a backorder of an approved medication, a need for a flavored or diluted medication to keep in stock in a practice, or dire economic restrictions. Regulations pertaining to compounding are the domain of the Food and Drug Administration federally, the Minnesota Board of Pharmacy and this Board.

The good news is that the Minnesota Board of Pharmacy has recognized that current state laws and regulations need to be changed to increase accountability for product safety yet be less restrictive for legitimate medical use. A bill designed to align state law with a new federal law called the [Drug Quality and Security Act](#) (DQSA) will be introduced in the Minnesota Legislature. The new state law would allow the Board of Pharmacy to develop rules that would permit practitioners, including veterinarians, to purchase a limited stock of a legally compounded medication that could be utilized in their clinic or dispensed to clients, for use in their animals, but only if the veterinarian has a valid client-patient relationship (VCPR). The Minnesota Pharmacy Board intends to have the rules apply to veterinarians even though the federal DQSA does not apply to veterinary compounding.

The interpretation of what constitutes compounding can be unclear. By definition, drug compounding is a practice in which a licensed health professional, or a person under their supervision, combines, mixes, or alters ingredients of a drug to create a medication tailored to the needs of an individual patient. If there is a valid VCPR, the Veterinary Practice Act allows a veterinarian to add a flavoring agent or vehicle to a prescription drug, dilute a prescription medication, and combine two or more FDA approved prescription medications and/or over the counter drugs, for use in patients. (Minnesota Statutes 156.16 [Definitions](#) and 156.18 [Veterinary Prescription Drugs](#)) A veterinarian should not prescribe a compounded drug when there is an FDA-approved formulation unless that formulation cannot be safely administered or dosed in that formulation. Ideally, whenever a veterinarian writes a prescription for a medication from a compounding pharmacy, he or she should check that the pharmacy is licensed as a compounder by the FDA and Minnesota. The license of a pharmacy selling medications in or to Minnesota can be verified on the MN Pharmacy Board website: www.pharmacy.state.mn.us

All compounding pharmacies and veterinarians that dispense compounded products are required to follow pharmacy and veterinary regulations on product labeling. The fact that the dispensed medication is compounded should be noted on the label, as compounded medications may have a slightly increased risk of contamination or misformulation. When this risk is discussed with a client, this communication should be recorded in the medical record.



Continuing Education

Interactive vs. Non-interactive

Veterinarians are required to have a minimum of 40 hours of approved continuing education in the preceding 2 years at the time of their license renewal.

Thirty of those hours need to be interactive, as defined in [Minnesota Rules 9100.1000](#). Interactive courses on the web typically have the following features:

- Occur in real-time
- There's the ability to write or call in questions
- Other veterinarians participate at the same time

In contrast, taking a non-interactive course on the internet allows a veterinarian to learn from either a pre-recorded presentation or webinar at a time that is convenient, and may include a quiz to obtain credit. These non-interactive courses should ideally be RACE approved and are considered self-study, so 3 hours of non-interactive CE would be needed for 1 credit hour of self-study. Please note that there is a limit of 10 hours that can be claimed for self-study within the two-year period. Similarly, only 10 of the 40 hours can be business management topics, whether interactive or not.

If in doubt about whether a web-based course would be considered interactive before enrolling, please check with the Board of Veterinary Medicine via vet.med@state.mn.us or 651-201-2844.

Veterinary Technician Licensing?

Minnesota is one of 12 states that does not license or register technicians. Legislation to propose MN veterinary technician licensing will be introduced soon. If you are interested in contributing to that discussion, please let either the MVMA or the Board of Veterinary Medicine know.



Continuing Education Approval

USDA/APHIS learning modules for purposes of accreditation can be counted towards continuing education credit requirements for your license. However, since these modules are considered non-interactive CE, 6 hours of modules will only count as 2 hours of CE in the self-study category for Minnesota veterinarians.

How do you get locally provided CE approved?

There are two routes that can be pursued. Ideally, the sponsor or organizer will apply for approval for all attendees. [This application](#) must be submitted 60 days before the planned CE event. If the speaker is not Board certified, the application must include a biographical sheet for the speaker(s), including their education, and substantiation of their expertise. Forms are available on the Board website. Approved programs are posted on the Board's [website CE Calendar](#). Any RACE approved courses, or those provided by UMN or veterinary professional associations do not need pre-approval. However, these can be listed on the Board's CE calendar if requested.

Individual Continuing Education Approval

Minnesota veterinarians can apply for individual continuing education approval through the board. **Within 30 days** of attending a non-preapproved course, licensees may apply to the board for credit by completing and submitting an [individual CE approval form](#). If you have a question about whether or not your program can be considered for individual CE approval, please contact the board.

Any information you can provide the board (e.g. speaker biography, brochure, lecture notes, etc.) will expedite the approval process.

After you submit your CE application, you will receive an approval letter confirming the number of approved hours. This record should be retained to keep track of your hours.



License Renewals

Even-numbered licenses will expire on February 28, 2014. Postcard reminders were sent December 31. Renew online by visiting our website now. Paper renewal forms can also be found on our website and are available for download. Please remember that you need 40 hours of continuing education credits from March 1, 2012 through February 28, 2014. If you will not have 40 hours prior to the renewal period, please contact the Board.

You will need to know your license number and last four number of your social security number to log in to the online renewal portal. Paper forms are also available for renewal. Please be sure to provide the Board with an **up-to-date e-mail address** when you complete the online renewal.



If you are having trouble using the online renewal portal, one of the most common problems is an incompatible web browser. Please make sure the web browser you are using is the most updated version.

New Board Office

The Board Office recently relocated in early October to a newly remodeled office in the same building. The new address is:

**2829 University Avenue SE #401
Minneapolis, MN 55414**

FDA Answers Questions on Extralabel Drug Use

A great resource for practitioners:

http://www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary/ResourcesforYou/ucm380135.htm?source=govdelivery&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

Professional Firm Initial Registration

Minnesota Statutes Section 319B, [the Professional Firms Act](#), requires every professional veterinary firm that provides services of a licensed professional to be registered with the Secretary of State and IN ADDITION must SEPARATELY register with the Board of Veterinary Medicine.

Any veterinary practice that is organized as any of the following must register with the board:

- Corporation
- Limited liability partnership
- Limited liability company

If you are unsure if a business falls under any of these categories, you may use the [S.O.S. business look up page](#). Businesses listed under MN Statute 302A, 317A, or 322B need to file with the board. If still in doubt, the board suggests you contact your attorney or accountant to review the details of your business structure and determine if you must register.

The initial registration form can be found on our [website](#). A \$100 filing fee, along with organizational articles, and a certificate of authority signed by the secretary of state are also necessary for initial registration with the board.

The Veterinary Practice Act ([MN Statute 156.11](#)) states that any firm violating these provisions is guilty of a gross misdemeanor and may be fined up to \$3,000 per day.

Please contact the board at 651-201-2844 or vet.med@state.mn.us if you have any questions.

Professional Firm Reports

Professional firm annual reports and \$25 fee payment were due January 1. If you have not yet sent in the form and fee, please do so as soon as possible. Please contact the board office if you have any questions.



Board Member Contact Information

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Tips: Who to Call?

Board of Veterinary Medicine: license, CE, veterinary and lay person complaints, Veterinary Practice Act, professional firm

Board of Animal Health: reportable diseases, rabies certificates, MN health certificates, animal identification

Board of Pharmacy: Compounding, drug label requirements, complaints regarding a pharmacy or pharmacist, license check

DEA: Controlled substances

USDA/APHIS: accreditation, health certificate requirements by state

Board of Chiropractors: human chiropractors working on animals



Contact Information for Related Boards

Minnesota Board of Animal Health:
625 Robert Street North, St. Paul, MN 55155
<http://mn.gov/bah/>
Phone: (651) 296-2942 Fax: (651) 296-7417

Drug Enforcement Agency:
100 Washington Avenue South, Suite 800 Minneapolis, MN 55401
www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/index.html
DEA Regional Field Office at (612) 344-4136
National office toll free 1-800-882-9539

Minnesota Board of Pharmacy:
2829 University Avenue SE, Suite 530
Minneapolis, MN 55414
<http://www.phcybrd.state.mn.us/>
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