 Department of Health Government of Nunavut		NURSING POLICY, PROCEDURE AND PROTOCOLS	
		Community Health Nursing	
TITLE:		SECTION:	POLICY NUMBER:
Compounding of Medications		Pharmacy	09-017-00
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APPLIES TO:			
Community Health Nurses			

POLICY

Simple compounding of pharmaceutical agents is within the scope of practice for registered nurses.

The final compound must not copy or duplicate a drug currently available in Canada, except when:

1. There is a shortage or there is no supply of this commercially available product **AND**
2. The health care professional has determined there is a medical need for this product.

When this circumstance occurs, the product may only be compounded during the period of shortage (e.g. compounding Tamiflu).

DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this policy:

Compounding is the act of combining or mixing two or more ingredients together to produce another medication or alter the dosage of one of the ingredients. Compounding does not include the act of reconstitution.

PRINCIPLES

Every effort must be made to arrange for the pharmacist to compound the medication. In the event that the pharmacist is unable to compound the medication in the time frame required, the registered nurse may compound:

1. in accordance with employer policies and guidelines for that specific medication;
2. on the instruction of a pharmacist, nurse practitioner, physician, dentist or veterinarian
3. from a list of medication identified in the HSS Formulary as a compoundable medication and in accordance with employer policies and guidelines.



AND in all circumstances, prior to simple compounding

1. A registered nurse must have the specific knowledge, skills and judgments to compound the drug safely, effectively and ethically in accordance with the requirements of the policy and standards of practice;
2. The registered nurse uses clinical judgment and evidence-based practice when compounding pharmaceutical agents and ensures individual competence;
3. The compounded pharmaceutical agent must meet specific client needs

RELATED POLICIES, GUIDELINES AND LEGISLATION:

Policy 09-018-00 Emergency Compounding of Tamiflu

Guideline 09-018-01 Guidelines for Compounding Tamiflu

Nunavut Nursing Act (S.Nu. 2003, c.17)

Registered Nurses Association of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. (2007). *Bylaw on Dispensing, Compounding and Packaging Drugs*. Yellowknife, NT.

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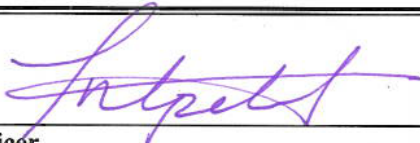

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Ontario College of Pharmacists. (1995). *Protocol of Delegating, Dispensing, and Compounding in Health Care Facilities*. Toronto, ON.

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Registered Nurses Association of Northwest Territories and Nunavut (2004). *Guidelines for Nursing Practice Decisions*. Yellowknife: RNANTNU

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