

## Storage and labelling requirements

### Storage

All products dispensed extemporaneously require some form of additional storage instructions to be detailed on the label. This information can be the addition of just a product expiry date through to a number of important additional auxiliary labels.

The summary list given in Table 1.1 is to be used as a guide in the absence of any guidance from the official pharmaceutical texts. It should be remembered that the information in this table is to be used only as a guide. Any information on additional labelling or expiry dates in the official texts will supersede the information provided in Table 1.1.

All suggested expiry dates included in Table 1.1 and other sections of this book are to be used as a guide only and are based on historical practice.

### General principles of labelling

Every extemporaneously prepared preparation will require a label to be produced before the product can be dispensed or sold to the patient. The accuracy of the label is paramount as it conveys essential information to the patient on the use of the preparation.

Although the pharmacist or other healthcare practitioner may counsel patients when the medication is handed over, it is unlikely that patients will be able to remember all the information that they are given verbally. The label therefore acts as a permanent reminder of the key points that patients need to know.

## Tips

Nowadays it is common practice to assign a maximum of a 2-week discard to any extemporaneously prepared product. Consideration should always be given to assigning a shorter discard date.

## KeyPoints

### The label of a pharmaceutical product has many functions:

- To indicate clearly the contents of the container
- To indicate clearly to patients how and when the medicinal product should be taken or used
- To indicate clearly to patients how the product should be stored and for how long
- To indicate clearly to patients any warnings or cautions of which they need to be made aware.

**Table 1.1** A guide to auxiliary labels and discard dates for extemporaneous preparations.

Preparation	Container	Important auxiliary labels	Suggested discard date
Applications	Amber fluted bottle with CRC	For external use only	4 weeks
Capsules	Amber tablet bottle with CRC	See BNF for advisory labels recommended for active ingredient	3 months
Creams and Gels	Amber glass jar or collapsible metal tube	For external use only	4 weeks