

scale manufacturing environments where a number of identical product are being manufactured at the same time. As with ointment jars, additional care must be exercised in the storage of collapsible tubes as they do not come with child-resistant closures.

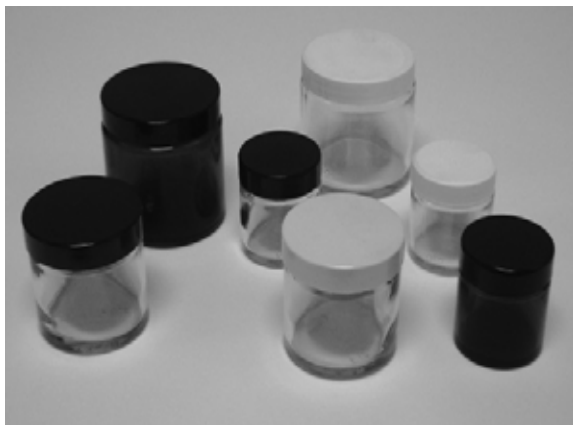


Figure 1.6
A selection of ointment jars.

Standards for extemporaneous dispensing

Patients who visit a pharmacy with a prescription for a product needing to be extemporaneously prepared are entitled to expect the standards within a pharmacy to be comparable to those of a licensed manufacturing unit. The products produced within the pharmacy must be suitable for use, accurately prepared and prepared in such a way as to ensure the products meet the required standard for quality assurance. So, although this is small-scale production, the same careful attention to detail is required as would be found in a manufacturing unit.

The following measures must be taken into consideration when preparing a product extemporaneously:

- **Personal hygiene.** Personal hygiene is extremely important. Hygiene standards within a pharmaceutical environment should be as high as, if not higher than, those found in food kitchens. This is because within a pharmaceutical environment, medication is being prepared for patients who may already be ill.
- **Personal protective equipment.** A clean white coat should be worn to protect the compounder from the product and conversely the product from contamination from the compounder. During the compounding process, safety glasses should always be worn and, depending on the nature of the ingredients to be incorporated into the preparation, additional