

chapter 1

Introduction

Layout of this text

Accurate and effective pharmaceutical formulation is a key skill which must be mastered by all student pharmacists and pharmaceutical technicians. This book is intended to be a guide to assist the student compounder in practising exercises relating to the key dosage forms encountered within extemporaneous dispensing.

The book has been designed as a stand-alone revision text and summarises the key points behind the manufacture of common extemporaneous dosage forms, along with a series of worked examples and questions (with answers) for students to use for self-learning.

Each chapter is set out as follows:

1. A **chapter overview** box summarising the key points covered in the chapter
2. An **introduction and overview** of the product type
3. A **general method** for the preparation of the product type
4. A collection of **worked examples** to aid understanding and to include details on suitable labelling and packaging
5. A series of **self-assessment questions** which it is expected that the student would work through independently. The answers to the questions can be found at the end of the book

When a prescription is received for an extemporaneous product there are a number of considerations to be made prior to dispensing. Within each chapter, the worked examples section will take a number of different preparations and expand on their compounding using the following subheadings:

1. **Use of the product**
2. **Is it safe and suitable for the intended purpose?**
3. **Calculation of formula for preparation**
4. **Method of preparation**
 - a. Solubility where applicable
 - b. Vehicle/diluent
 - c. Preservative
 - d. Flavouring when appropriate