



Colorado Veterinary
Medical Association

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Protect animal health through veterinary access to compounded drugs

Background

- Veterinarians frequently find themselves in situations where treating a sick or injured animal involves a compounded drug because:
 - An FDA-approved drug is not commercially available (due to shortages that are becoming more common for both veterinary drugs and human drugs that can be used in treating animals) , or
 - An approved drug needs to be modified (for example by flavoring, diluting, or changing the form of the medication) to sufficiently treat the patient , or
 - There is no approved product from which to compound the needed preparation.
- Compounded drugs must be obtained from a specialized registered prescription drug outlet and orders must be based on a patient-specific prescription.
- An exemption exists for resident pharmacies to supply a limited quantity of a compounded drug without a patient-specific prescription for office use (that is, for administration within the veterinary office). However, not all compounded drugs are supplied by Colorado compounding pharmacies and nonresident pharmacies are prohibited from supplying compounded drugs for office use.
- A patient-specific prescription may not be able to be filled immediately by a compounding pharmacy – yet Colorado does not currently allow a veterinarian to hold office stock of a compounded drug from which a limited number of doses could be dispensed.
- Veterinarians work in a wide variety of settings that are often distant from these compounding pharmacies, and animal patients' lives are in jeopardy because of the delay in acquiring the compounded substances.

Solution

- Permit a resident or nonresident compounding pharmacy to provide a compounded drug to a veterinarian without a patient-specific prescription for office use or for office stock
- Permit the veterinarian to possess compounded drugs for office use or office stock and, if a patient has an emergency condition, to dispense the compounded drug from office stock in an amount not to exceed five (5) days' worth of doses