



Care-Rx
HEALTH

DELIVERING PHARMACEUTICAL CARE SINCE 2008

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GETTING TO KNOW YOUR PHARMACY



Care-Rx

organizations. We offer innovative, flexible, and comprehensive solutions through our three divisions: Care-Rx (PBM), Home Care-Rx (Fulfillment), and Creative Compounding Pharmacy. Care-Rx Health will consistently reduce your pharmaceutical costs while partnering with you to provide superior pharmacy services as well as clinical support.

Care-Rx and Home Care-Rx serve as trusted pharmacy advisors in the PBM and pharmacy industries by consistently reducing your pharmaceutical costs while assisting you in delivering extraordinary clinical care. Our management team works *with* you to understand your unique needs and to design timely, cost-effective solutions that will also meet those needs.



HOME Care-Rx



Creative
Compounding
PHARMACY

highest quality compounded medications to each customer through qualified and experienced professionals. Compounding has helped so many of their patients, allowing each person to have access to medication services and customized products that are as unique as

Creative Compounding Pharmacy came into the community founded by pharmacists who are dedicated to providing the

their health conditions. Their dedication to the business has brought them the success that they enjoy today.

Together, the three branches of Care-Rx Health—Care-Rx, Home Care-Rx, and Creative Compounding—are distinctly equipped to serve our hospice clients and their patients in all aspects of care. Partnering with us will allow you more time to focus on providing superior quality-of-life and end-of-life care.

TEAM MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

ALEX VELASCO

“Failure is simply the opportunity to begin again, this time more intelligently.” - Henry Ford

Hola! My name is Alejandro, but I go by Alex. I’m the Clinical Coordinator at Home Care-Rx, and have been working here for 2 years now.

A typical work day for me includes verifying prescriptions, taking in new verbal orders, and interacting with other healthcare providers to provide consultations

via telephone. The toughest challenges encountered at work include difficult cases requiring us to think outside

LUNCH & LEARN

As Clinical Coordinator, Alex travels to present nurses with educational tools such as:

- Home Care-Rx pharmacy operations
- PCA/CADD pump in-services
- Pain management bootcamp (methadone dosing, opioid conversions)

the box and being innovative in terms of how we can best help make the patient comfortable and/or pain-free during their last days of life. I'd say my greatest success thus far would be having finished grad school, and having a stable career; most importantly is being in a position where I can help my family. Being surrounded by friends and family makes me happy, which is why I love working at this pharmacy: the people I get to work with are not only co-workers, but we're like a big family as well. Everyone works hard day in and out, always willing to help each other.

This past summer I had the opportunity to visit Spain and really liked the city of Barcelona—I actually wouldn't mind living there. If money and time weren't an issue, I'd probably be traveling somewhere in South America or Asia, trying out new foods and learning about the different cultures.

ANDREW MINARD

"I get older. They stay the same age."
- Matthew McConaughey

Hi, my name is Andrew, and I am one of the Lead Technicians at Home Care-Rx. A little about myself: I attended the pharmacy technician program at American Career College and graduated with Honors and perfect attendance. I'm an outdoors person; I love to hike, fish, cliff jump, and I definitely love to garden. A normal day off for me—if I'm not at Home Depot buying plants—includes hanging out with my all white Siberian Husky, who is a little hard-headed but a great pal.

I've been working at Home Care-Rx for two glorious years. What I love most about working at the pharmacy is my coworkers. We're like family here. We all have our ups and downs but are willing to pick each other up and keep truckin' on. My greatest success in the medical field is having the knowledge and customer service in order to assist nurses and patients as best as I can to help solve or troubleshoot any problems.

We at Home Care-Rx are happy to be back in business. We look forward to servicing you and will do our best to make your experience with us as easy as possible.

COMPOUNDING: PERSONALIZED MEDICINE

Treating patients during the final stages of terminal illness is a challenge faced by both the patients and their healthcare providers. End-of-life care is multi-layered,

and people with a terminal illness are among the most vulnerable patients in need of effective and compassionate care.

Compounding is essentially personalized or tailored medicine. A compounded preparation is needed when no commercially manufactured medication is available to adequately address a patient's medical needs: the patient cannot swallow, the patient has an allergy that limits the usage of the commercially available drug, the much-needed drug is temporarily on backorder and unavailable for purchase (see Table 1). For whatever reason, many patients are not served by mass-produced medications. This especially includes the hospice and palliative population. When patients suffer in spite of commercially available therapies, compounding medications yield a solution to the most challenging treatment problems.

Table 1. Hospice-related drugs experiencing national shortage

Dexamethasone tablets	Scopolamine patch
Haloperidol tablets	Nystatin suspension
Lorazepam tablets	Atropine 1% oph solution
Lorazepam oral solution	

We compound these drugs in order to provide our hospices uninterrupted service, and the patients with continued care.

Special flavorings, unique dosage forms, innovative delivery methods—by using these tools and more, compounds can fill a gap in health care through customized solutions for specific patient needs. It is a considerable option to explore for people who 1) have allergies to common mass-produced medicine fillers and/or 2) need custom medicine strengths and dosage forms. For patients who are unable to swallow pills orally, pharmacists can prepare it in the form of a lotion to be applied to skin, or as suppositories, oral liquids, or even lozenges to meet the needs of every patient. These various available forms of medication provide the options most comfortable to patients with diversified needs. Lastly, while commercially available medications do not provide the exact strengths the patient requires, compounding medication can be adjusted to offer the patient the exact dosage their body needs.

Although symptoms can vary from person to person, compounded medication may be the ideal way to ease and manage these symptoms. The table below lists some of the most often prescribed compounds that are used in outpatient hospice and palliative care. These compounds are offered by Home Care-Rx to treat common conditions.

Table 2. Commonly ordered compounds used for symptomatic treatment in outpatient hospice and palliative care

Symptom(s) to be managed	Compounded drug
Nausea/vomiting	Ativan(A) /lorazepam, Benadryl(B) /diphenhydramine, Haldol(H) /haloperidol, Reglan(R) /metoclopramide combinations (topical, rectal) Compazine /prochlorperazine and/or meclizine (topical) Scopolamine (topical)
Anxiety/agitation	Lorazepam (oral) Haloperidol (oral)
Excessive secretions	Atropine (sublingual) Scopolamine (topical)
Pain	Benzocaine, lidocaine, tetracaine (topical) Ketoprofen (topical) Gabapentin (topical) Choline trisalicylate (oral) Dexamethasone (oral)
Wound care	Aminocaproic acid (topical)
Seizures	Keppra /levetiracetam (rectal) Diazepam (oral, rectal) Phenobarbital (rectal)
Hemorrhoids	Hydrocortisone (rectal)

For dosing and pricing, please call our pharmacy at 714-545-5455.

Like hospice, compounding pharmacy offers a specialized service. Our role in the hospice environment is to relieve and manage the symptoms of these individuals and offer them comfort; by having compounding pharmacy as a specialized service, we can better ensure that our patients are receiving personalized care specific to their needs.

Medical Disclaimer: The content is not intended to be a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. Always seek the advice of your physician or other qualified health provider with any questions you may have regarding a medical condition. Never disregard professional medical advice or delay in seeking it because of something you have read on this newsletter article.

COMING TO YOU IN OUR FUTURE NEWSLETTERS

- Team member spotlight
- Pop-up pharmacy news
- Clinical support for common hospice-related conditions
- Management/treatment guidelines or algorithms
- Special/New compounds

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Hours of Operation

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Saturday & Sunday 9am-9pm

On-call services available 24/7

We are open to any suggestions and feedback that you may have. Please email tnghuyen@carerxhealth.com with topics you would like to read or learn about.