

***O'Brien Pharmacy
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To Whom It May Concern,

This prescription has been compounded for xxxxxxxxx by a doctor's legal, written order. The doctor has determined this to be the best medical choice, where other mainstream treatments have either failed or are simply not indicated.

To this end, we have taken painstaking measures to assure this patient a custom medication of the highest quality and highest accuracy, using the most current techniques and equipment - with outcomes that are extremely difficult to duplicate by pharmacies lacking the specialized education, equipment and materials. In fact, in several instances and this one in particular, there are only a handful of pharmacies with similar capabilities nationwide.

Unlike mass-produced medication that is available at virtually any pharmacy anywhere across the country, custom-compounded medication is unique to a particular pharmacy. Even if given specific instructions on preparation, another pharmacy is unlikely to duplicate every aspect of a medication compounded at the prototype pharmacy.

Thus, it is therefore impossible for someone to make or document the claim that the same custom-made prescription is available at another pharmacy, without the intimate knowledge of chemicals, technique and equipment used at both pharmacies.

In addition, forcing a patient to a pharmacy unskilled in such preparations could have legal repercussions if resulting harm or suffering were to come to the patient.

Finally, the use of NDC numbers is for the internal use of the prescription processing administrator. The FDA does NOT assign NDC numbers to pure chemicals or compounds, nor do they have a process for doing so. Any chemical with an "NDC" number is a fictitious number assigned by a chemical wholesaler and NOT the FDA. And, as clearly stated in the attached letter from the FDA, compounded medications are exempt from NDC numbers and are considered the practice of pharmacy/medicine.

Since the patient has prescription insurance, and hormonal replacement therapy is also covered, reimbursement should be forthcoming. Otherwise, the Department of Insurance will be asked to investigate.

I hope this clarifies the complexity of many compounded medications. As we all know, people are individuals and as such, will have unique medical needs that are sometimes only addressed through individual attention and custom prescriptions.

Eric Everett, RPh