

Compounded meds meet patients' unique needs

Specialized service available in Perry

For people with specific prescription medicine needs, a pharmacy that offers compounding can be invaluable and play a major role in their overall health.

Luckily, local residents don't have to go far to find this service. Compounding is offered at Perry Pharmacy, which is owned by pharmacists Steve and Tracy Anderson.

The pharmacy art of compounding is the method of preparing medications to meet each prescriber's and patient's unique needs. Compounding can be critical in the health of people who are allergic to commonly used fillers, dyes and other additives included in mass-produced medications or who need medications in different strengths or dosages commonly unavailable.

Tracy Anderson, D. Ph, has been compounding for 12 years. She said for a time, compounding was not widely used, but there has been a resurgence of the practice and it is becoming more prevalent in the state.

Tracy has practiced the art of compounding for several years. She attends continuing education seminars in compounding yearly to be familiar with the latest technology.

"Compounding," Tracy said, "is a special interest of mine and adds some excitement to my job." As a compounding pharmacist, Tracy works with physicians to provide solutions to solve medication needs of her customers. She says she enjoys seeing how compounding makes a difference in the lives of customers and she particularly enjoys using compounding to help children.

In compounding, Tracy formerly crushed the medications by hand but now uses an electric mortar and pestle. She hand fills each capsule, pulling them apart and then rejoining the two pieces after filling.

Compounding has made a difference in the life of one Perry Pharmacy customer, 6-year-old Brayden Fisher. Brayden underwent a liver transplant two years ago. Tracy compounds the medicine, Imuran, that is beneficial in keeping his body from rejecting his new liver. His mother, Brandy, said she really enjoys coming to Perry to get his medicine because the Andersons and their employees are so personable. "They make us feel like family," said Brandy. "It takes time to make Brayden's medicine. When I call and come over to get it from Lahoma, they always have it ready with no problems. The day will come,

when Brayden will be able to be off the special prescription."

Brandy said their insurance company found Perry Pharmacy for them. "It had to be a compounding pharmacy," said Brandy. In talking about Brayden, she said at first it was like a roller coaster, but they are grateful to have him and they make every day count. Last year she home schooled Brayden, but this year he is going to a Home School Academy. "This way he has some interaction with a few children, but not a whole lot of kids," said Brandy.

Another customer, Rana McCoy, a vocal music teacher and musician, tried lots of things before discovering that compounding was beneficial for her specific needs.

"A lot of stuff on the market," McCoy said, is 'one size fits all,' but each body is different." McCoy said dosage for an individual is a trial and error method and Tracy takes the time to talk to her and her physician to make sure that she gets the dosage that is best for her.

McCoy said compounding is "very personalized" and says that her whole family benefits from the practice. She said "Tracy is a great asset who is always up on current medications and how they affect the body."

Numerous dosage forms can be compounded specifically for a person's needs, including capsules, creams, ointments, lotions, dental preparations, dermatological specialties, discontinued combination medications, topical and oral gels, geriatric, homeopathic, nausea, pediatric, podiatric, preservative free, sugar-free, physical therapy and transdermal formulations, combination dosages, lip balms, nasal sprays and solutions, oral suspensions, otic insufflations, solutions and suspensions, rectal enemas and suppositories, throat sprays, topical powders and sprays, urethral inserts and vaginal creams and suppositories.

Also available through compounding are medicated lollipops. Medications can even be placed in hard, sugar-free candies to make it easier for children to take.

Tracy said she is always willing to discuss compounding with anyone who believes the art can help them. She will also work with physicians in regard to preparing medications specifically for a person's needs.



The medication compounded at Perry Pharmacy has made a difference in Brayden Fisher's life since his liver transplant two years ago. He is pictured with Perry Pharmacy's co-owner, pharmacist Tracy Anderson, who compounds the anti-rejection drug.