



## NEWS RELEASE

---

August 12, 2004  
#2004-40

### CONTACTS:

**Ellen Wilcox**

Director, ASHP Public Relations Division  
PHONE: (301) 657-3000, ext. 1224  
E-MAIL: ewilcox@ashp.org  
WEB: www.ashp.org

**Elizabeth Shea**

Manager, External Communications  
Baxter International  
PHONE: (847) 948-3297  
E-MAIL: elizabeth\_shea@baxter.com  
WEB: www.baxter.com

### **PHARMACY SOCIETY ADDS NEW SELF-ASSESSMENT TOOL TO COMPOUNDING RESOURCE CENTER** *ASHP and Baxter Healthcare Collaborate on Online Survey to Help Pharmacists Meet USP Standards*

BETHESDA, MD. AND DEERFIELD, IL—Pharmacists who practice in hospitals and health systems can take the first step toward ensuring the safety of their compounding practices with a new online tool from the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) and Baxter Healthcare Corporation.

The “ASHP Self-Assessment Tool for Compounding Sterile Preparations” will help users develop an initial action plan to comply with the new sterile preparations requirements in United States Pharmacopeia (USP) Chapter 797, *Pharmaceutical Compounding—Sterile Preparations*. The tool includes a 75-question survey that addresses all aspects of the USP chapter. Answers to the survey questions will help users determine their institution’s compounding risk level and current level of compliance with the standards. After completing the survey, users will receive a percentage score and a list of resources to assist with meeting the requirements.

The self-assessment tool is one of the many resources in the Society’s new Web-based Compounding Resource Center ([www.ashp.org/SterileCPD/](http://www.ashp.org/SterileCPD/)). The resource center features answers to frequently asked questions, compounding-related news stories, quick access to pertinent ASHP guidance and products, a calendar of compounding-related events, and other resources, such as Web links to government agencies and manufacturers. The resource center also highlights ASHP activities and events, including educational sessions at the Society’s national meetings.

The Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) began including elements of Chapter 797 standards in its surveys July 1, 2004. The standards apply to all

practice settings in which compounded sterile medications are prepared, stored, and dispensed, including hospitals, ambulatory care clinics, home infusion services, and physicians' offices.

In addition to advising USP on the development of the new standard, ASHP has developed new guidance, produced training materials, and offered educational sessions on sterile compounding. ASHP is also working with affiliated state societies and state boards of pharmacy on revisions to sterile compounding statutes, regulations, and guidelines, and working to increase understanding of congressional staff on compounding issues.

*Baxter Healthcare Corporation is the principal U.S. operating subsidiary of Baxter International Inc. (NYSE: BAX). Baxter assists healthcare professionals and their patients with treatment of complex medical conditions, including cancer, hemophilia, immune disorders, kidney disease and trauma. The company applies its expertise in medical devices, pharmaceuticals and biotechnology to make a meaningful difference in patients' lives. For more information about Baxter, please visit [www.baxter.com](http://www.baxter.com).*

*ASHP is the 30,000-member national professional association that represents pharmacists who practice in hospitals, health maintenance organizations, long-term care facilities, home care, and other components of health care systems. ASHP, which has a long and distinguished history of medication error prevention efforts, believes that the mission of pharmacists is to help people make the best use of medicines. Assisting pharmacists in fulfilling this mission is ASHP's primary objective. The Society has extensive publishing and educational programs designed to help members improve their delivery of pharmaceutical care, and it is the national accrediting organization for pharmacy residency and pharmacy technician training programs.*

-END-