Federal Employees Health Benefits Program
Compounded Drugs

A compounded drug is a drug created by a pharmacist to meet the unique needs of a patient.

Compounded drugs require a prior authorization review. You must:
1. Not be able to swallow drugs and need a liquid or suppository form;
2. Be sensitive to dyes, fillers, or preservatives in commercially available drugs; or
2. Need a drug no longer available. The originator drug cannot have been taken off the market for safety concerns. The drug must be compounded into the same route of administration (such as by mouth or injection) as the originator drug.

Compounded Drug Criteria:
We only consider coverage for a compounded drug when it meets all of the following criteria:
1. Ingredients are not available OTC;
2. Must be prescribed for a disease or medical condition that is supported by the FDA or scientific evidence in recognized medical literature;
3. Drugs are not for resale;
4. Contains at least one prescription ingredient FDA-approved for medical use in the U.S.; and
5. The compound is prescribed for the prescription ingredient’s FDA-approved medical purpose. If not, the medical evidence must be found in the following:
   a. Nationally recognized studies published in American medical journals that meet requirements for scientific studies. Most of their articles are reviewed by experts. These experts are not part of the publisher’s editorial staff; or
   b. Nationally-recognized literature such as Medline, Medicus, STARs, National Institute of Health, Medical Journals recognized by HHS Clinical Pharmacology, AHFS-DI, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, National Cancer Institute, AHRQ, or NCCN guidelines.

Compounded Drugs Not Covered:
We do not cover all compounded drugs. The following are examples that we consider Experimental or Investigational. There is not enough evidence in the peer-reviewed published medical literature that they work. This list is not all-inclusive.

- Nebulized anti-infectives, nasal administration for the treatment of sinusitis
- Implantable estradiol pellets
- Bioidentical hormones
- Topical verapamil
- Topical ketamine
- Topical flubiprofen
- Topical ketoprofen
- Topical lidocaine
- Topical testosterone
- Topical estrogen