

“Strategic Planning”, since it addresses a broad range of issues that must be considered as part of the planning process. Other chapters deal with benchmarking and productivity analysis, the factors that should be considered when an organization is considering outsourcing some or all pharmacy services, and a range of issues related to pharmacy education and research.

The contextual framework for this book is the US health care system, and for those who practise within that system it will undoubtedly be very useful. For Canadian pharmacy practitioners, the book’s value is less clear. A Canadian pharmacist with a limited understanding of financial management in the Canadian health care system would have difficulty separating out the parts of this book that are relevant to the Canadian context. Conversely, a reader who already has a fairly in-depth understanding of how financial management works in the Canadian health care setting probably would not benefit very much from reading a book like this one. *Financial Management for Health-System Pharmacists* provides interesting insights into the financial management issues faced by our colleagues in the United States, but unless you are contemplating a move south of the border, it isn’t a text that many Canadian hospital pharmacists will find particularly useful.

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Compounding Sterile Preparations: ASHP’s Video Guide to Chapter <797>

Kienle PC. American Society of Health-System Pharmacists, Bethesda, Maryland, 2009. DVD: 60 minutes; ISBN 978-1-58528-226-5. Companion workbook: 105 pages; ISBN 978-1-58528-232-6. US\$330.00 (US\$264.00 for ASHP members).

This brief and basic guide to the standards of practice set forth in Chapter <797> of the United States Pharmacopeia — National Formulary (USP–NF) deals specifically with the revision of June 1, 2008. The package consists of a 105-page softcover workbook and companion DVD video. The 60-minute video will run on any DVD player, but if played on a

computer, an MPEG-2 decoder is required. The 19 sections or chapters of the video and workbook are completely aligned. The text of the workbook follows the video narrator’s text closely, and each section in the workbook concludes with 3 to 6 self-assessment questions (true/false or multiple choice), with answers provided at the back of the book.

The 19 section topics are as follows: “Responsibilities of the Compounding Personnel”, “Principles of Asepsis”, “Facilities—Critical Sites and Primary Engineering Controls”, “Facilities—Sterile Compounding Areas”, “Hand Hygiene and Garb”, “Compounding Basics”, “Cleaning and Disinfecting the Work Areas”, “Pharmacy Compounding Devices”, “Risk Levels”, “Immediate Use CSPs” (compounded sterile preparations), “Beyond Use Dates”, “Single and Multiple-Dose Containers”, “Labelling”, “Final Checks”, “Storage and Delivery”, “Competency and Personnel Monitoring”, “Patient or Caregiver Training”, “Monitoring of Adverse Events”, and “Quality Assurance Plan”.

In the video, each of these sections is covered in 3 to 5 minutes. In the workbook, each section spans 3 to 6 pages. Therefore, the amount of detail is limited, and explanations or justifications are sparse. In fact, this workbook and video should be considered more as an organizer or overview of sterile compounding programs, rather than a detailed reference text. In many sections, the reader is advised to complete training programs or to consult USP Chapter <797> or other professional publications.

This workbook and video will be useful for a department or a pharmacist setting up a new IV additive program within an institution. In that situation, the workbook and video can be used to identify and establish a foundation for best practice. Alternatively, several sections could also serve as an introduction to more complete training or recertification programs for aseptic and sterile compounding staff. In that case, particular sections could be used to introduce or remind staff of the requirements and responsibilities associated with sterile compounding. However, this video and workbook are not intended to replace or even demonstrate best practice. More detailed reference texts are required and are available to provide this level of instruction and knowledge.

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