

Compounding is Healthcare. Counterfeiting is a Crime.
Don't let misinformation threaten patient access to safe, legitimate medicine.

Recent narratives from large pharmaceutical manufacturers have dangerously conflated two entirely different worlds: the **illegal online sale of fake drugs** and the **legitimate medical practice of pharmacy compounding**. This confusion threatens patient access to essential treatments during drug shortages. It is time to draw a sharp line between the "Wild West" of the black market and the highly regulated, safety-focused reality of licensed compounding.

Legitimate compounding protects patients from counterfeits

Legitimate compounding pharmacies do not just "mix drugs," they operate under a rigorous framework of federal and state protections designed to ensure purity, potency, and safety.

- **Verified sourcing:** Compounding pharmacies use **active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs)** solely from FDA-registered facilities — the same sources used by major drug manufacturers.
- **The "DNA" check:** Every ingredient is verified by a **certificate of analysis (CoA)**. This document confirms the identity, purity, and quality of the specific lot before it ever enters our labs. If it doesn't pass, it doesn't get used.
- **Strict regulatory oversight:** Compounding pharmacies operate under the constant supervision of state boards of pharmacy and adhere to federal standards.
- **Traceability:** Unlike black-market counterfeit sellers, the supply chain for compounding pharmacies is transparent. Every step, from ingredient acquisition to the final prescription, is documented and traceable.

Myth vs. Fact: Rebutting the Big Pharma narrative

- **"Compounded drugs are counterfeits." False.** Counterfeiting is a crime; compounding is healthcare. A counterfeit is a fake product designed to deceive. A compounded drug is a prescribed medication prepared by a licensed professional to heal.
- **"Compounding is unregulated." False.** Compounding is highly regulated. Pharmacies must adhere to strict federal quality standards and are subject to oversight by State Boards of Pharmacy and FDA inspection (for 503B facilities).
- **"Compounded drugs use unsafe ingredients." False.** Safety starts at the source. Compounding pharmacies use only FDA-registered APIs verified by Certificates of Analysis to confirm identity and purity. They do not use "research grade" or unverified substances.
- **"Compounded GLP-1s are illegal 'knock-offs'." False.** During drug shortages, federal law *specifically allows* pharmacies to compound copies of FDA-approved drugs to ensure patient access. This is a purposeful safety valve in the healthcare system, not a loophole.
- **"Compounding pharmacies order API directly from offshore manufacturers." False.** Some would have policymakers and the public believe that counterfeit GLP-1 API containing harmful substances is ordered by state-licensed pharmacies for dispensing to patients. They do not, and that's not how the supply chain for legitimate pharmacies works.

THE BOTTOM LINE

Put patients before profits.

When brand-name manufacturers cannot meet demand or specific needs, patients shouldn't be left behind. Compounding pharmacies bridge the gap, providing legitimate, high-quality alternatives when critical drugs cannot meet or fail to reach those who need them. **Don't confuse a doctor's prescription with a fake drug.**