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**PHARMACY GROUPS CREATE COMPOUNDING ACCREDITATION BOARD
Leading Organizations Pioneer Effort to Improve Patient Care**

WASHINGTON, DC- A coalition of leading pharmacy related professional and regulatory organizations announced the creation of a voluntary accreditation program for pharmacy compounding, the preparation of customized medications for individual patients. The announcement was made at APhA2004, the annual meeting of the American Pharmacists Association.

This coalition, the Pharmacy Compounding Accreditation Board (PCAB), was established to help improve the quality and raise awareness of compounding. The governing board, entrusted to execute a nationwide accreditation program, is expected to consist of the following organizations: the American College of Apothecaries, the American Pharmacists Association, the International Academy of Compounding Pharmacists, the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy, the National Community Pharmacists Association, the National Council of State Pharmacy Association Executives, the National Home Infusion Association, and the United States Pharmacopeia. Stakeholder organizations invited to provide input include the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists, the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists, and the National Association of Chain Drug Stores.

“We are excited to work with this diverse group of leading pharmacy organizations to make compounding accreditation a reality and look forward to the further development and education of best practices and standards,” said IACP Executive Director L.D. King.

As an initial focus, the program will accredit pharmacy sites engaged in compounding at a designated level of complexity. The process, initially focusing on sterile compounding in the community practice setting, will bring increased quality assurance for pharmacy compounding.

“Compounding is a critical component of the healthcare industry. As pharmacists, we must ensure that the process, driven and controlled by the profession, improves our practices and thereby improves patient care,” said APhA Executive Vice President John A. Gans, PharmD.

The program is expected to be developed within the following months with the first pharmacy site accredited by the end of the year.

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