

BOOK REVIEW

Trissel's Stability of Compounded Formulations, by Lawrence A. Trissel, American Pharmaceutical Association, 2215 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20037-2985. 1996. \$58.00.

During recent years there has been some resurgence in the practice of compounding prescriptions by pharmacists in the United States, although there has been lively discussion and legal action concerning the legality of some of this activity and whether it is in the best interest of society (1).

This book provides a compilation of data concerning the stability of pharmaceutical products which have been published during the past 35 years. There are monographs on over 200 products arranged in four classes. The book also provides some data on compatibility with other drug products. More than 450 references are provided.

This book is easy to use and appears to be commendably free of typographical or other errors. The price is, by 1996 standards, remarkably moderate. Any pharmacist who is involved in compounding should certainly have a copy of this book.

Of course, the basic question which this book could not be expected to answer is: "To what extent can lit-

erature data provide reasonable assurance that a particular batch of a product compounded by pharmacist *X* in location *Y* has a shelf life of *N* days?" If this book is used prudently and conservatively to assign shelf lives for some compounded products, the results may well be acceptable. However, it may well be that for some products presently being compounded by community pharmacists, actual stability data on the batch should be determined.

REFERENCE

1. L. A. Underhill, N. A. Campbell, and C. T. Rhodes, Regulatory and clinical aspects of the resurgence of compounding by pharmacists, *Drug Dev. Ind. Pharm.*, 22, 659-666 (1996).

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