

# Remington's Pharmaceutical Sciences

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# Table of Contents

<b>Part 1 Orientation</b>		44	Cholinomimetic Drugs .....	889
1	Scope .....	3	45 Adrenergic and Adrenergic Neuron Blocking Drugs .....	898
2	Evolution of Pharmacy .....	8	46 Antimuscarinic and Antispasmodic Drugs .....	907
3	Ethics .....	20	47 Skeletal Muscle Relaxants .....	916
4	The Practice of Community Pharmacy .....	28	48 Diuretic Drugs .....	929
5	Opportunities for Pharmacists in the Pharmaceuti- cal Industry .....	33	49 Uterine and Antimigraine Drugs .....	943
6	Pharmacists in Government .....	38	50 Hormones .....	948
7	Drug Information .....	49	51 Vitamins and Other Nutrients .....	1002
8	Research .....	60	52 Enzymes .....	1035
<b>Part 2 Pharmaceutics</b>		53	53 General Anesthetics .....	1039
9	Metrology and Calculation .....	69	54 Local Anesthetics .....	1048
10	Statistics .....	104	55 Sedatives and Hypnotics .....	1057
11	Computer Science .....	138	56 Antiepileptics .....	1072
12	Calculus .....	145	57 Psychopharmacologic Agents .....	1082
13	Molecular Structure, Properties and States of Matter .....	158	58 Analgesics and Antipyretics .....	1097
14	Complex Formation .....	182	59 Histamine and Antihistamines .....	1123
15	Thermodynamics .....	197	60 Central Nervous System Stimulants .....	1132
16	Solutions and Phase Equilibria .....	207	61 Antineoplastic and Immunosuppressive Drugs ...	1138
17	Ionic Solutions and Electrolytic Equilibria .....	228	62 Antimicrobial Drugs .....	1163
18	Reaction Kinetics .....	247	63 Parasitocides .....	1242
19	Disperse Systems .....	257	64 Pesticides .....	1249
20	Rheology .....	310	65 Diagnostic Drugs .....	1272
<b>Part 3 Pharmaceutical Chemistry</b>		66	66 Pharmaceutical Necessities .....	1286
21	Inorganic Pharmaceutical Chemistry .....	329	67 Adverse Drug Reactions .....	1330
22	Organic Pharmaceutical Chemistry .....	356	68 Pharmacogenetics .....	1344
23	Natural Products .....	380	69 Pharmacological Aspects of Drug Abuse .....	1349
24	Drug Nomenclature—United States Adopted Names .....	412	70 Introduction of New Drugs .....	1365
25	Structure-Activity Relationship and Drug Design .....	422	<b>Part 7 Biological Products</b>	
<b>Part 4 Testing and Analysis</b>		71	Principles of Immunology .....	1379
26	Analysis of Medicinals .....	435	72 Immunizing Agents and Diagnostic Skin Antigens .....	1389
27	Biological Testing .....	484	73 Allergenic Extracts .....	1405
28	Clinical Analysis .....	495	74 Biotechnology and Drugs .....	1416
29	Chromatography .....	529	<b>Part 8 Pharmaceutical Preparations and Their Manufacture</b>	
30	Instrumental Methods of Analysis .....	555	75 Preformulation .....	1435
31	Dissolution .....	589	76 Bioavailability and Bioequivalency Testing .....	1451
<b>Part 5 Radioisotopes in Pharmacy and Medicine</b>		77	Separation .....	1459
32	Fundamentals of Radioisotopes .....	605	78 Sterilization .....	1470
33	Medical Applications of Radioisotopes .....	624	79 Tonicity, Osmoticity, Osmolality and Osmolarity ..	1481
<b>Part 6 Pharmaceutical and Medicinal Agents</b>		80	Plastic Packaging Materials .....	1499
34	Diseases: Manifestations and Patho- physiology .....	655	81 Stability of Pharmaceutical Products .....	1504
35	Drug Absorption, Action and Disposition .....	697	82 Quality Assurance and Control .....	1513
36	Basic Pharmacokinetics .....	725	83 Solutions, Emulsions, Suspensions and Extractives .....	1519
37	Clinical Pharmacokinetics .....	746	84 Parenteral Preparations .....	1545
38	Topical Drugs .....	757	85 Intravenous Admixtures .....	1570
39	Gastrointestinal Drugs .....	774	86 Ophthalmic Preparations .....	1581
40	Blood, Fluids, Electrolytes and Hematologic Drugs .....	800	87 Medicated Applications .....	1596
41	Cardiovascular Drugs .....	831	88 Powders .....	1615
42	Respiratory Drugs .....	860	89 Oral Solid Dosage Forms .....	1633
43	Sympathomimetic Drugs .....	870	90 Coating of Pharmaceutical Dosage Forms .....	1666
			91 Sustained-Release Drug Delivery Systems .....	1676
			92 Aerosols .....	1694
			<b>Part 9 Pharmaceutical Practice</b>	
		93	Ambulatory Patient Care .....	1715
		94	Institutional Patient Care .....	1737
		95	Long-Term Care Facilities .....	1758
		96	The Pharmacist and Public Health .....	1773



## CHAPTER 84

# Parenteral Preparations

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Dosage forms of drugs are designed to make it possible to introduce a drug into the body of a human or animal patient. Since the well-being, or even the life, of the patient may be affected, the dosage form must be designed and prepared in a manner intended to promote the safety of the patient. Concurrently, it is essential that the dosage form complement or enhance the therapeutic effectiveness of the drug.

Parenteral (Gk, *para enteron* = beside the intestine) is the route of administration of drugs by injection under or through one or more layers of the skin or mucous membranes. Since this route circumvents these highly efficient protective barriers of the human body, exceptional purity of the dosage form must be achieved. The processes used in preparing it must embody good manufacturing practices that will produce and maintain the required quality of the product. New developments in process technology and quality control should be adopted as soon as their value and reliability have been established as a means for further improving the quality of the product.

### History<sup>1</sup>

One of the most significant events in the beginnings of parenteral therapy was the first recorded injection of drugs into the veins of living animals, in about 1657, by the architect Sir Christopher Wren. From such a very crude beginning, the technique for intravenous injection and knowledge of the implications thereof developed slowly during the next century and a half. In 1855 Dr Alexander Wood of Edinburgh described what was probably the first subcutaneous injection of drugs for therapeutic purposes using a true hypodermic syringe.

The latter half of the 19th century brought increasing concern for safety in the administration of parenteral solutions, largely because of the work of Robert Koch and Louis Pasteur. While Charles Chamberland was developing both hot-air and steam sterilization techniques and the first bacteria-retaining filter (made of unglazed porcelain), Stanislaus Limousin was developing a suitable container, the all-glass ampul. In the middle 1920s Dr Florence Seibert provided proof that the disturbing chills and fever which often followed the intravenous injection of drugs was caused by potent products of microbial growth, pyrogens, which could be eliminated from water by distillation and from glassware by heating at elevated temperatures.

Of the recent developments that have contributed to the high quality standards currently achievable in the preparation of parenteral dosage forms, the two that have probably contributed most are the development of HEPA-filtered laminar airflow and the development of membrane microfiltration for solutions. The former made it possible to achieve ultraclean environmental conditions for processing sterile products, and the latter made it possible to remove from solutions by filtration both viable and nonviable parti-

cles of microbial size and smaller. However, many other developments in recent years have produced an impressive advance in the technology associated with the safe and reliable preparation of parenteral dosage forms. The following list identifies a few of the events which have contributed to that development.

1926—Parenterals were accepted for inclusion in the fifth edition of the *National Formulary*.

1933—The practical application of freeze-drying to clinical materials was accomplished by a team of scientists at the University of Pennsylvania.

1938—The Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act was passed by Congress, establishing the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

1944—The sterilant ethylene oxide was discovered.

1946—The Parenteral Drug Association was organized.

1961—The concept of laminar airflow was developed by WJ Whitfield.

1962—The FDA was authorized by Congress to establish current good manufacturing practices (CGMP) regulations.

1965—Total parenteral nutrition (TPN) was developed by SJ Dudrick.

1972—The Limulus Amebocyte Lysate test for pyrogens in parenteral products was developed by JF Cooper.

### Administration

Injections may be classified in five general categories:

1. Solutions ready for injection.
2. Dry, soluble products ready to be combined with a solvent just prior to use.
3. Suspensions ready for injection.
4. Dry, insoluble products ready to be combined with a vehicle just prior to use.
5. Emulsions.

These injections may be administered by such routes as intravenous, subcutaneous, intradermal, intramuscular, intraarticular and intrathecal. The nature of the product will determine the particular route of administration that may be employed. Conversely, the desired route of administration will place requirements on the formulation. For example, suspensions would not be administered directly into the blood stream because of the danger of insoluble particles blocking capillaries. Solutions to be administered subcutaneously require strict attention to tonicity adjustment, otherwise irritation of the plentiful supply of nerve endings in this anatomical area would give rise to pronounced pain. Injections intended for intraocular, intraspinal, intracisternal and intrathecal administration require the highest purity standards because of the sensitivity of nerve tissue to irritant and toxic substances.

When compared with other dosage forms, injections possess select advantages. If immediate physiological action is

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