



## ASHP Foundation News Release

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### **ASHP Foundation Offers Sterile Products Outsourcing Tool**

*New resource helps pharmacists evaluate proposals for parenteral product preparation services*

**BETHESDA, Md.** (June 29, 2011) — The [American Society of Health-System Pharmacists \(ASHP\) Research and Education Foundation](#) has developed a new web-based tool that helps pharmacists evaluate proposals from external organizations that provide parenteral product preparation services. [Outsourcing Sterile Products Preparation: Contractor Assessment Tool](#) is an easy-to-complete, portable PDF form developed with support from PharMEDium Services, LLC.

Preparation of sterile parenteral products is a critical component of health-system pharmacy practice. Many hospital pharmacy departments in the United States contract with external organizations for the sterile preparation of parenteral medications, which presents significant safety and quality implications that impact not only pharmacists, but physicians, nurses and patients.

Users will complete a series of questions to evaluate proposals submitted by potential outsourcing contractors. The assessment tool provides departments of pharmacy with guidance for evaluating outsourcer proposals in the following areas:

- Regulatory compliance
- Quality and patient safety measures
- Medication administration safety features
- Service excellence

Weighted scores are associated with each response, and upon completion, the tool will generate a report that provides comparative data for all RFP responses. This report can then be used, in conjunction with site visits, to evaluate proposals in the context of the hospital's or health system's patient care and operational needs.

“As pharmacy leaders, we are directly responsible for the quality of pharmaceutical services and products provided to our patients, including those products and services obtained from outsourcing vendors,” says William W. Churchill, M.S., R.Ph., chief of service in Brigham and Women's Hospital's department of pharmacy in Boston, Mass. “It is imperative that pharmacy leaders not make assumptions about quality but rather must proactively assess the ability of outsourcing vendors to provide the high-quality products and services that we demand for our patients. This new assessment tool will provide pharmacy leaders with a comprehensive set of objective criteria that will help them complete a proper vendor assessment and make an informed decision on which vendors with whom they do and do not want to do business. Pharmacy directors across the country must take advantage of the tool and start the vendor assessment process now!”

“The ASHP Foundation has designed an exceptionally useful tool to help pharmacists assure that outsourced sterile compounding services will match the level of quality and patient safety they'd expect in their own practice,” said Mike Cohen, R.Ph., M.S., Sc.D., president of the Institute for Safe Medication Practices in Horsham, Pa. “Use of the tool should be a required step in the process of choosing an appropriate vendor.”

### **For More Information**

To access the Sterile Products Outsourcing Tool, please visit our website at [www.ashpfoundation.org/SterileProductsTool](http://www.ashpfoundation.org/SterileProductsTool).

### **About the ASHP Foundation**

The [ASHP Research and Education Foundation](http://www.ashpfoundation.org) was established in 1968 by the [American Society of Health-System Pharmacists](http://www.ashp.org) as a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization. As the philanthropic arm of ASHP, our vision is that patient outcomes improve because of the leadership and clinical skills of pharmacists, as vital members of the health care team, accountable for safe and effective medication use. Our mission is to improve the health and well-being of patients in health systems through appropriate, safe and effective medication use.

### **Contact Information**

Daniel J. Cobaugh, Pharm.D.  
Vice President  
ASHP Research and Education Foundation  
301-664-8612  
[foundation@ashp.org](mailto:foundation@ashp.org)

Bethany L. Coulter, M.A.  
Director of Communications and Events  
ASHP Research and Education Foundation  
301-664-8795  
[bcoulter@ashp.org](mailto:bcoulter@ashp.org)

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