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Why Premix Matters

Premix medications are designed to help hospitals deliver safe, reliable, ready-to-use therapies without the time and resource demands of sterile compounding. They serve as a dependable foundation in medication management, allowing pharmacists to redirect expertise to patient-centered clinical work.

Key Advantages of Premix

FDA-approved safety and consistency

Premix medications are manufactured under full cGMP oversight and undergo FDA review for safety, efficacy, and quality before release. This helps support consistent doses, predictable stability, and standardized labeling.

Reduced workflow burden

By minimizing manual sterile compounding, premix can help reduce preparation time[1] and free pharmacy resources for clinical services or higher-priority compounding.

Supply reliability

Premix products come with long shelf lives (18-36 months) and can be purchased through standard wholesale channels, helping provide predictable availability and less waste.

Clinician and patient safety

Fewer manual manipulations mean fewer opportunities for contamination, needlesticks, or accidental exposure.[1] Premix also offers standardized strengths and concentrations that support medication administration and help reduce potential for error.

Alignment with ISMP Best Practices

According to the Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP): To the extent possible, using commercially manufactured parenteral products over manually compounded sterile preparations is a Best Practice.[2]

Fresenius Kabi Premix Bags

As one of the world's largest manufacturers of IV solutions, Fresenius Kabi delivers an expanding portfolio of ready-to-use premix medications produced with rigorous quality systems and backed by decades of sterile manufacturing experience. Our bags are not made with PVC, DEHP, or natural rubber latex, supporting safe use across diverse patient populations.[3]

At Fresenius Kabi, our goal is simple: to provide high-quality, ready-to-use medications that help pharmacists deliver exceptional patient care while protecting valuable time and resources.

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How Premix Complements Compounding

Compounding pharmacies play an important role, especially when treating patients who require individualized therapies or during drug shortages.

The addition of premix can support them by:

- Reducing routine or high-volume compounding so pharmacies can prioritize specialty or patient-specific preparations.
- Providing a consistent baseline product that helps reduce variability across shifts, staff, and sites.
- Allowing compounding teams to maintain focus on the cases where their expertise is most needed.

Manufactured vs. Compounded Medications

	Manufacturer	503B pharmacy
Regulation	Manufactured premix medications are FDA-approved, reviewed for safety, effectiveness, and quality	FDA-registered facilities operating under cGMP-like standards; allowed to compound for office stock
Approved for non–patient-specific bulk compounding and distribution	●	●
Provides FDA–approved drug labeling	●	
Permitted to produce FDA–approved/ commercially made drugs	●	Not permitted to make an “essential copy” of a manufactured drug unless it is on the FDA shortage list or clinical significance can be demonstrated
Meets ISMP best practices for sterile compounding	●	

Compounding remains a critical pharmacy function. Premix enhances this capability by offering predictable, ready-to-use, FDA-approved medications that help support operational efficiency, patient safety, and adherence to best practices.

By using premix where appropriate, pharmacies may be able to better balance safety, workload, and clinical priorities, focusing compounding expertise where it makes the greatest impact.

References:

1. AJ Loeb, DA Fishman, TR Kochis. Premixed intravenous admixtures: a critical challenge for hospital pharmacy. Am J Hosp Pharm 1983 Jun;40(6):1041-3.
2. 2022 ISMP Guidelines for Sterile Compounding and the Safe Use of Sterile Compounding Technology, page 17.
3. Health Care Without Harm. Why Health Care is Moving Away from Hazardous Plastic Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC). 2006; Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. DEHP Toxicological Profile; Engel SM et al. Neurotoxicity of Ortho-Phthalates. AJPH. 2021; Tickner JA et al. Health risks of DEHP in PVC devices. AJIM. 2001.

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