One Year of The Compound Blog: 12 Lessons That Shaped Better Sterile Compounding

In September 2025, Parasol Medical launched *The Compound Blog* with a simple mission: provide practical guidance that helps sterile compounders move beyond compliance and toward confidence. Over the past year, we've explored training, contamination control, environmental monitoring, hazardous drug safety, competency assessment, and operational excellence.

As we celebrate our first anniversary, we're looking back at the single most important takeaway from each month.

September 2025

Takeaway: Compliance should support patient care, not create barriers to it.

Our very first blog focused on why Parasol exists: helping sterile compounders navigate increasingly complex regulatory expectations while maintaining safe and efficient operations. The message remains the same today. Organizations perform best when compliance programs support the people doing the work, rather than becoming an obstacle to it.

October 2025

Takeaway: Garbing competency requires observation, not assumptions.

Proper garbing is one of the most important contamination control activities in sterile compounding. Small mistakes matter, and the best programs actively observe technique, provide immediate coaching, and reinforce correct behaviors.

November 2025

Takeaway: Compliance is a management system, not a one-time project.

Successful programs continuously evaluate SOPs, training, environmental monitoring, and operational practices. Organizations that routinely assess themselves rarely find surprises during inspections.

December 2025

Takeaway: Media-fill testing should prove competency, not simply generate documentation.

Media-fill testing is one of the strongest tools available to evaluate aseptic technique. The goal is not just to complete a requirement. The goal is to demonstrate that sterile preparations can be compounded safely and consistently.

January 2026

Takeaway: Compliance starts with strong habits.

The beginning of a new year offered a reminder that environmental monitoring, competency assessment, documentation, and facility management are not annual activities. Consistent execution turns compliance into confidence.

February 2026

Takeaway: Culture drives compliance.

Organizations achieve sustainable success when leaders teach standards, coach technique, and make the right behaviors the easiest behaviors to perform every day.

March 2026

Takeaway: Wipe sampling should create confidence, not fear.

Hazardous drug wipe sampling is often viewed as something to avoid. In reality, when trended appropriately and acted upon thoughtfully, wipe sampling becomes one of the most powerful tools for protecting staff and verifying control.

April 2026

Takeaway: Environmental monitoring data tells a story.

Viable air and surface sampling were never intended to be pass/fail exercises. Data becomes valuable when it is trended, interpreted, and connected to real-world activities occurring inside the cleanroom.

May 2026

Takeaway: Competency programs must evaluate real-world performance.

Personnel qualification is most effective when it evaluates whether individuals can safely perform sterile compounding activities under realistic conditions, rather than simply completing a checklist.

June 2026

Takeaway: Best practices create the greatest contamination control gains.

USP <797> establishes minimum requirements. The highest-performing programs consistently go beyond minimum expectations in cleanroom behavior, material transfer, garbing, and hand hygiene.

July 2026

Takeaway: The biggest compliance risks are often the least visible.

Many organizations focus heavily on compounding personnel while overlooking other critical contributors, including environmental monitoring personnel, cleaning staff, and individuals responsible for reviewing and interpreting data.

August 2026

Takeaway: Competency assessments must be meaningful.

Assessments should reflect actual practice, challenge technique, and generate valuable information. The strongest programs focus on learning and improvement rather than simply obtaining a passing result.

Looking Ahead

The first year of *The Compound Blog* reinforced one consistent theme: compliance is important, but understanding *why* requirements exist is what drives excellence.

As we enter our second year, readers can expect additional practical guidance, new educational tools, and solutions designed to make USP <797> implementation easier, more efficient, and more defensible.

In fact, something new is already taking shape. This fall, Parasol will introduce a new product designed specifically to simplify critical environmental monitoring activities for sterile compounding programs. We're not ready to share all the details just yet, but if improving efficiency, consistency, and convenience has been on your wish list, October may be worth watching.

Thank you for reading, sharing, and growing with us over the past year. Here's to Year Two.