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## January is Thyroid Awareness Month.

More than half of all people affected by thyroid disease are unaware of their condition. Thyroid disorders affect far more women than men, and the risk increases with age. While both men and women experience stress and exposure to environmental toxins, women are more vulnerable to thyroid imbalances due to hormonal changes throughout their lifetime (puberty, birth control pills, pregnancy, menopause, HRT). Many symptoms of hypothyroidism and menopause overlap. While hormone replacement therapy often focuses on estrogens, progesterone, DHEA and testosterone, optimal hormone balance cannot be achieved without correcting thyroid hormone imbalances.



Thyroid hormone helps the body convert food into energy, regulates body temperature, and impacts reproduction and many other hormonal functions. In hypothyroidism (underactive thyroid), either the thyroid's ability to make and release T<sub>4</sub> or the body's ability to convert T<sub>4</sub> to T<sub>3</sub> becomes compromised often showing up in the form of elevated TSH. When thyroid hormones are not available in the proper form and amount, many bodily functions are disrupted. For example, thyroid imbalance has a profound effect on cardiovascular fitness because thyroid hormone helps control heart rate and blood pressure. Hypothyroidism also weakens muscles including the diaphragm; as a result, breathing can become less efficient. Snoring may start or become worse. Fatigue is extremely common, and muscles and joints may ache.

People with hypothyroidism have an increased risk of kidney disease, and when thyroid hormone levels drop, the liver no longer functions properly and produces excess cholesterol, fatty acids, and triglycerides, which increase the risk of heart disease. Hypothyroidism is the second leading cause of high cholesterol, after diet. High cholesterol may also increase the risk of Alzheimer's disease, and severe hypothyroidism can cause symptoms similar to those of Alzheimer's disease.

Compounding enables physicians to prescribe thyroid hormone therapy in a customized dose, and without excipients such as lactose, corn starch, and gluten, which represent some of the most common food sensitivities that can exacerbate symptoms of hypothyroidism.

Individuals with low levels of thyroid hormones (hypothyroidism) may have several of the following symptoms, but may not be diagnosed for years:

- Slowed metabolism and slowed heart rate
- Cold and heat intolerance – cold hands and feet
- Fatigue
- Fluid retention - face, legs, eyelids and abdomen
- Dry skin, eyes and/or hair
- Yellowed skin
- Loss of eyebrows
- Constipation
- Headaches, migraines

- Depression, apathy and anxiety
- Irritability - low self esteem
- Low sexual desire
- Infertility
- Memory and concentration impairment
- Enlarged tongue, deep voice and swollen neck
- PMS, Irregular menstrual periods
- Lack of exercise tolerance
- Weight gain (especially in the abdomen)
- Hypoglycemia (low blood sugar)

If you experience some of these symptoms, it's important to be properly tested. Ask your doctor or our pharmacist for more information.

***Our compounding professionals work together with patients and their doctors to customize medications in the specific strength and dosage form that is most appropriate to meet specific needs.***

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#### READ MORE ABOUT THYROID HORMONE THERAPY

Be sure to follow **@ClearspringPharmacy** on Instagram to keep up with the latest happenings at the pharmacy and important health information!



ClearSpring mobileRx app allows you to refill prescriptions on your mobile device at your convenience. You can refill multiple prescriptions on a mobile device by entering your prescription numbers, scanning the barcode on the prescription bottles or using your Patient Profile.

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#### Two-Way Text Communication

At ClearSpring Pharmacy, we now offer two-way text communication where we can communicate conveniently about your prescription, refill status, insurance, etc. Ask your pharmacist for details.



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**Shop our Cherry Creek Location**



ClearSpring Pharmacy's Littleton location is a PCAB® Accredited Compounding Pharmacy. [Learn more about PCAB® Accreditation.](#)



***We care about our patients and want to provide you with quality information about your health. If you ever have questions or would like more information, please feel free to ask. We look forward to caring for you and your family.***