

## NEEMMC GUIDELINES FOR TABLET CRUSHING AND ADMINISTRATION VIA ENTERAL FEEDING TUBES

### KEY TO DRUG ADMINISTRATION GUIDELINES

Please follow the guidelines in order, as shown in the chart (i.e. number 1 is the first choice of which form to administer the drug in).

- A** Tablet will disperse in 1-2 minutes.
- B** Tablet will disperse in greater than 2 minutes.
- C** Liquid preparation available.
- D** Dilute reconstituted injection with 30-60ml of water before administering.
- E** Oral solution/suspension can be prepared by local pharmacy or Non Sterile Preparative Services (PSU at Colchester General Hospital).

**Note: It is an unlicensed use to crush tablets, open capsules and make extemporaneous suspensions. However, using tablets within these guidelines is covered by the Trust for legal/vicarious liability.**

For more information on the administration via different tubes,  
please contact Medicines Information on ext. 2161.

Drug	Key code	Information
ACETAZOLAMIDE	1. A* 2. D 3. E	* Diamox SR capsules can be opened and the contents flushed down the enteral tube
ACICLOVIR	1. C 2. A*	* Dispersible tablets available
ALFACALCIDOL	C*	* Drops available. Sensitive to light
ALFUZOSIN	A	Beware of sudden hypotensive effect if giving crushed tablets. Monitor BP and ensure patient is lying down prior to administering the dose. Do not crush slow release preparations.
ALLOPURINOL	1. B 2. E	
ALVERINE		Content of capsules is very bitter, and might numb the tongue and throat.
AMILORIDE	1. B 2. C*	* Liquid available.
AMINOPHYLLINE		Convert to theophylline liquid equivalent. Do not crush SR preparations.
AMIODARONE	B	
AMITRIPTYLINE	1. C 2. B	
AMLODIPINE	A	

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AMOXICILLIN	C	
ANASTROZOLE	B	
ARIPIRAZOLE	B	Some excipients are insoluble in water and may float to the surface. Crush tablets, mix with water and take immediately.
ASCORBIC ACID	A*	* Effervescent tablets available.
ASPIRIN	A	Convert enteric coated tablets to dispersible aspirin.
ATENOLOL	1. C 2. B	
ATORVASTATIN	A	
AZATHIOPRINE	1. A* 2. E	* Do not crush tablets. Cytotoxic, wear gloves.
BACLOFEN	1. C 2. B	
BALSALAZIDE	B	Capsules can be opened and sprinkled in water or on food.
BENDROFLUMETHIAZIDE	1. B 2. E	
BENPERIDOL	E	
BENZHEXOL	1. B 2. C	
BETAHISTINE	1. B 2. E	
BETAMETHASONE	A	
BEZAFIBRATE	B	Do not crush MR forms (Bezalip Mono™).
BICALUTAMIDE		Tablets can be crushed, but are practically insoluble in water.
BISACODYL	Use suppositories	Crushed tablets are very irritant.
BISOPROLOL	B	
BROMOCRIPTINE	A	
BUMETANIDE	1. C 2. B	
BUPROPION		Tablets should not be crushed.
BUSPIRONE	B	
CALCIFEROL	B	Do not give with enteral feed. Stop feed prior to administration, flush tube before and after.
CALCIUM RESONIUM	Dissolve required amount of powder in water.	Stop feed prior to administration, flush tube before and after. Caution: blocks tubes easily
CAPTOPRIL	1. B 2. E	
CARBAMAZEPINE	1. C* 2. A*	* May bind to PVC feeding tubes. Do not crush slow release preparations.
CABERGOLINE	B	
CALCIUM	A*	* Effervescent tablets available.
CALCIUM FOLINATE	B	Tablets need to be crushed.
CAPECITABINE	B	Tablets can be crushed in water and taken immediately. Unpleasant taste, can be flavoured.

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CARBIMAZOLE	B	
CARVEDILOL	B	Monitor blood pressure.
CEFRADINE	C	
CELECOXIB		Hydrophobic, does not dissolve in water. Change to suitable alternative.
CELIPROLOL	E	
CETIRIZINE	C	
CHLORAL HYDRATE	C	
CHLORAMPHENICOL	B	Open capsules and disperse contents in water.
CHLORPHENAMINE	1. C 2. D	
CHLORDIAZEPOXIDE	1. B* 2. E	* Open capsules and disperse contents in water.
CHLORPROMAZINE	1. C 2. B	Wear gloves if crushing tablets.
CICLOSPORIN	C*	* Interact with PVC feeding tubes, so dilute the dose in equal amount of water. Monitor plasma levels.
CIMETIDINE	1. C* 2. B 3. D	* Stop enteral feed prior to administration. Flush tube before and after.
CINNARIZINE	1. B* 2. E	* Open capsule and disperse contents in water.
CIPROFLOXACIN	1. C* 2. B	* Do not dilute suspension further. Disperse tablet in sterile water. Stop enteral feed prior to administration. Flush tube before and after.
CISAPRIDE	1. C 2. B	
CITALOPRAM	1. C 2. B	Drops available (4 drops=8mg liquid is equivalent to 10mg tablet).
CLARITHROMYCIN	C	
CLINDAMYCIN	1. C 2. A*	* Capsules can be opened and mixed with water or food. Add flavouring.
CLOBAZAM	1. A 2. E	
CLOMIPRAMINE	E	
CLONAZEPAM	1. A 2. C 3. E	
CLONIDINE	1. A (Catapres) B (Dixarit) 2. D* 3. E	* Dilute and administer Catapres™ injections.
CLOPIDOGREL		Tablets do not dissolve in water. Crush tablets and give in food.
CLOZAPINE	E	
CO-AMILOFRUSE	1. B 2. E	Or change to amiloride liquid and furosemide liquid.
CO-AMILOZIDE	E	

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CO-AMOXICLAV	1. C 2. A*	* Dispersible tablets available (not kept at CHUFT).
CO-CODAMOL	A*	* Dispersible tablets available.
CODEINE	1. C 2. B	
CO-BENELDOPA	A*	* Dispersible tablets available.
CO-CARELDOPA	A*	* Do not disperse slow-release tablets.
CO-DANTHRAMER	C	Two strengths available.
CO-DANTHRUSATE	C	
CO-DYDRAMOL		No liquid/dispersible tablets available. Convert to dihydrocodeine liquid and paracetamol liquid.
CO-PHENOTROPE	B	
CO-FLUAMPICIL	C	
CO-TRIAMTERZIDE	B	
CO-TRIMOXAZOLE	1. C 2. B	
CYCLIZINE	1. B 2. D	
CYCLOPHOSPHAMIDE	1. E 2. D*	* Cytotoxic.
CYPROTERONE	1. A 2. E	
DANTROLENE	1. D 2. E	
DAPSONE	B	
DEMECLOCYCLINE	B	Open capsule and disperse contents in water.
DEXAMETHASONE	1. C 2. B 3. D	
DEXAMPHETAMINE	E	Controlled drug.
DIAZEPAM	1. C* 2. B 3. D*	*Interact with PVC feeding tube, so dilute dose of suspension with equivalent amount of water. Injection can also be given rectally.
DICLOFENAC	A*	* Dispersible tablets available. Advise short-term use only due to irritant nature.
DIGOXIN	1. C 2. B	50mcg elixir (1ml) is equivalent to 62.5mcg tablet.
DIHYDROCODEINE	C	
DILTIAZEM	1. B* 2. E	* Open capsule and disperse content in water. Do not crush the pellets. Do not crush slow-release tablets.
DIPYRIDAMOLE	1. C 2. B* 3. D* 4. E	* Open slow-release capsule and disperse contents in water. Do not crush granules. * Dilute with fruit juice or fizzy drinks.
DISOPYRAMIDE	B*	* Open capsule and disperse contents in water.
DOCUSATE	C	

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DOMPERIDONE	1. C 2. B	
DONEPEZIL	1. A	Crush tablet before suspending in water
DOSULEPIN	1. C 2. B	Open capsule and disperse in water.
DOXAZOCIN	2. A 3. E	Do not crush modified release tablets. Change to normal release and increase the frequency appropriately.
DOXYCYCLINE	A*	* Dispersible tablets available.
DYAZIDE	E	
ENALAPRIL	1. B 2. E	
ENTACAPONE	B	Caution: stains surrounding objects orange. Wear gloves.
ERYTHROMYCIN	C	Erythromycin ethylsuccinate is the only liquid preparation available. When switching from erythromycin stearate tablets, the dose has to be doubled.
ESCITALOPRAM	B	Tablets can be crushed and dispersed in water, orange or apple juice. To be taken immediately. Tablets do not disperse fully. Bitter taste.
ETAMSYLATE	E	
ETHAMBUTOL	1. B 2. E	
ETIDRONATE	B	Stop enteral feed 2 hours before and after administration. Flush tube before and after.
ETOPOSIDE	D*	* Cytotoxic.
FAMOTIDINE	B	
FERROUS SULPHATE	B or:	Switch to sodium feredetate liquid – Sytron™ (10ml equivalent to 200mg ferrous sulphate tablet). Modified release iron tablets should be changed to the equivalent normal release strength and dose first.
FERROUS GLUCONATE	B	
FINASTERIDE	A	
FLAVOXATE	E	
FLECAINIDE	1. A 2. D 3. E	
FLUCLOXACILLIN	C	Stop enteral feed 30min to 1h before and after administration. Flush tube.
FLUCONAZOLE	C	
FLUDROCORTISONE	1. A 2. E	
FLUOXETINE	C	Or capsules can be opened and dispersed in water.
FLUPENTIXOL	B	
FLUVASTATIN	B	Open capsule and disperse in water.
FOLIC ACID	1. C	

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	2. B	
FUROSEMIDE	1. C 2. A	
FUCIDIC ACID/ SODIUM FUCIDATE	C	500mg sodium fusidate tablet is equivalent to 750mg oral suspension.
GABAPENTIN	B	Open capsule and disperse in water.
GALANTAMINE	C	Slow release capsules can be opened and contents sprinkled into a drink or soft food.
GLIBENCLAMIDE	1. B 2. E	Monitor blood glucose levels.
GLICLAZIDE	1. B 2. E	Monitor blood glucose levels.
GLYCOPYRRONIUM	A	Tablets disperse in water. The injection can be given orally.
GRANISETRON	C	
GRISEOFULVIN	E	Tablets are not soluble in water.
HALOPERIDOL	1. C 2. B	Open up capsule and disperse contents in water.
HYDRALAZINE	1. B 2. D 3. E	
HYDROCORTISONE	1. A 2. E	
HYDROXYCARBAMIDE	A	Capsules can be opened and contents dissolved in water. Take immediately. Caution: cytotoxic!
HYDROXYCHLOROQUINE	1. B 2. E	
HYDROXYZINE	1. B 2. C	
HYOSCINE BUTYLBROMIDE	D	
HYOSCINE HYDROBROMIDE	D	Transdermal patches available.
IBUPROFEN	1. C 2. B*	* Do not crush enteric-coated preparations.
IMIPRAMINE	1. C 2. B	
INDAPAMIDE	1. B 2. E	Do not crush slow release formulations.
INDOMETACIN	C	
INDORAMIN	E	
IRBESARTAN		Practically insoluble in water. Crush tablets and give in food.
ISOSORBIDE MONONITRATE	1. B 2. E	Do not crush slow release formulations. Change to normal release preparations and increase frequency. Monitor blood pressure.
ISOSORBIDE DINITRATE	E	Or change to isosorbide mononitrate and crush tablets.
ISONIAZID	1. B 2. C	

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ISOTRETINOIN		Capsules can be softened and pierced, and contents can be dissolved in milk or spread on food.
ITRACONAZOLE	C	
LABETALOL	1. B 2. D	
LAMOTRIGINE	A	Dispersible tablets available.
LANSOPRAZOLE	A	Oro-dispersible tablets and powder sachets available. Capsules can be opened and granules flushed down the enteral tube using water.
LEVAMISOLE	B	Tablets can be crushed and mixed with water.
LEVETIRACETAM	1. C 2. B	Solution available is bitty, can clog tubes. Tablets can be crushed and dispersed in water or sprinkled on food. Taste bitter.
LEVOFLOXACIN	B	Stop enteral feed prior to administration. Flush tube before and after. Do not use low doses.
LEVOMEPRMAZINE	1. A 2. E	
LEVOTHYROXINE	1. B 2. E	
LIOTHYRONINE	A	Very small quantity of active ingredient in each tablet: there is no guaranty that the entire amount is being taken if crushed.
LISINOPRIL	1. A 2. E	
LITHIUM CARBONATE	1. C 2. E	Tablets are slow release, so liquid preparation may have to be given in more frequent doses. Monitor plasma lithium levels.
LOFEPRAMINE	1. C 2. B	
LOPERAMIDE	C	Open capsule and disperse contents in water.
LORAZEPAM	1. A 2. D* 3. E	* Injection can be given sublingually.
LORATADINE	C	
LOSARTAN	A	
MAGNESIUM GLYCEROPHOSPHATE	E	
MEBEVERINE	C	
MEDROXYPROGESTERONE	1. B 2. D 3. E	
MEGESTROL	B	Crush tablets as they are not easily soluble in water.
MEFENAMIC ACID	1. B 2. E	Open capsule and disperse contents in water.
MELOXICAM	A	

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MENADIOL	E	
MESALAZINE	A*	* Use Pentasa™. Do not crush Asacol™ tablets.
METFORMIN	1. B 2. E	Monitor blood glucose levels.
METHOTREXATE	E	Cytotoxic.
METHYLDOPA	1. B 2. C 3. E	
METOCLOPRAMIDE	1. C 2. B	
METOLAZONE	1. A 2. E	
METOPROLOL	1. B 2. E	Do not crush slow release formulations.
METRONIDAZOLE	1. C 2. B	Suppositories also available.
MIANSERIN	B	
MIDAZOLAM	1. C 2. D	
MINOXIDIL	A	
MIRTAZAPINE	A	Soltabs melt on the tongue. They also disperse in water.
MISOPROSTOL	A	
MONTELUKAST	A	Unstable in water, so give immediately.
MORPHINE	1. C 2. A*	* MST Continuous sachets available. Do not crush slow release formulations. Zomorph™ and MXL™ capsules can be opened. Do not crush the granules.
MOXONIDINE	B	One tablet will dissolve in 50ml of water in greater than 2 minutes.
MULTIVITAMINS	1. C* 2. B	* Abidec drops available.
MYCOPHENOLATE	C	Do not crush tablets; toxic if come into contact with skin or mucous membranes.
NABILONE	B	Open capsule and disperse contents in water.
NAFTIDROFURYL		Capsules should not be opened as content can cause severe irritation/anaesthetic effect on oesophagus. Can be given via PEG or NG tube with plenty of water.
NAPROXEN	B	Do not crush slow release or enteric-coated formulations. Suppositories are available.
NEFOPAM	E	
NEOSTIGMINE	E	
NICORANDIL	A	
NIFEDIPINE	B	Crush or disperse Adalat Retard™ tablets in water and use immediately. Do not crush Adalat LA™ tablets- convert to equivalent dose of Adalat retard™.

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		Monitor BP closely.
NIMODIPINE	1. B* 2. E	* Use immediately as very light sensitive.
NITRAZEPAM	1. C 2. B 3. E	
NITROFURANTOIN	1. B 2. C*	* Liquid available on a named patient basis only. Do not crush slow release formulations.
NIZATIDINE	B	Open capsule and disperse contents in liquid. Consider changing to ranitidine liquid.
NORETHISTERONE	B	
OFLOXACIN	A	Use sterile or distilled water. Consider switch to Ciprofloxacin.
OLANZAPINE	1. A* 2. B**	* Orodispersible tablets (Velotabs). ** Dissolve in orange juice. Wear gloves as very irritant to skin. Protect eyes.
OLSALAZINE	B	Capsule contents can be dissolved in WARM water.
OMEPRAZOLE	B	Crush and flush tablets (Losec Mups™). Losec™ capsules can be opened and the granules flushed down the enteral tube.
ONDANSETRON	1. C 2. B 3. D	Melt tablets are available for dissolving on the tongue.
ORPHENADRINE	1. C 2. B	
OXPRENOLOL	B	Do not crush slow release preparations.
OXYBUTYNIN	1. C 2. B	
OXYCODONE	C	Controlled drug.
OXYTETRACYCLINE	1. B 2. E	
PANCREATIC ENZYMES	B	Open capsule (Creon™, Nutrizyme™) and disperse contents in water.
PARACETAMOL	1. A* 2. C	* Dispersible tablets available.
PAROXETINE	C	
PENICILLAMINE	B	
PENICILLIN	1. C 2. B	Stop enteral feed prior to administration. Flush tube before and after. Avoid low doses.
PENTAZOCINE	E	Controlled drug.
PERGOLIDE	B	
PERINDOPRIL	A	
PHENELZINE	B	
PHENOBARBITAL	1. C 2. B	
PHENYTOIN	C	15ml phenytoin suspension is equivalent to 100mg capsule. Stop enteral feed 2 hours

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		before and after administration. Flush tube with 60ml of water after phenytoin. Monitor plasma concentration.
PHYTOMENADIONE (Vitamin K)	1. B 2. D*	* Use Konakion™ MM Paediatric injection and give orally.
PILOCARPINE	E	
PIMOZIDE	B	
PIROXICAM	A*	* Dispersible tablet available. Dissolve in at least 50ml of water as very irritant. Do not crush capsules.
PIZOTIFEN	1. C 2. B	
POTASSIUM	1. A* 2. C	* Sando K effervescent tablets available.
PRAMIPEXOLE	B	Light sensitive, give immediately.
PRAVASTATIN	B	
PRAZOSIN	B	Very poorly soluble in water.
PREDNISOLONE	A*	* Dispersible tablets available.
PREGABALIN	A	Open capsule and dissolve contents in water. Bitter taste.
PRIMAQUINE	B	
PRIMIDONE	1. C 2. E	
PROBENECID	B	
PROCHLORPERAZINE	1. C 2. A	
PROCYCLIDINE	1. C 2. B	
PROMETHAZINE	1. C 2. B 3. D	
PROPANTHELINE	E	
PROPRANOLOL	1. B 2. C	Do not crush slow release preparations.
PROPYLTHIOURACIL	A	
PYRAZINAMIDE	1. A 2. C* 3. E	* Stop enteral feed half an hour before and after administration.
PYRIDOSTIGMINE	1. B 2. E	Stop enteral feed prior to administration. Flush tube before and after.
PYRIDOXINE	1. B 2. E	
QUETIAPINE	B	Film-coated tablets are poorly soluble in water. Manufacturer recommends crushing and mixing in yogurt.
QUININE SULPHATE	1. B 2. E	
RAMIPRIL	B	Tablets can be crushed. Capsules can be opened and contents dispersed in water. Monitor blood pressure.
RANITIDINE	1. C	

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RIFABUTIN	1. B* 2. E	* Contents of capsule can be emptied in small amount of water and flavoured.
RIFAMPICIN	C	
RIFATER / RIFANAH	C	Use liquid form of each component separately (Rifampicin, isoniazid and pyrazinamide). Rifater and Rifanah sachets can be imported via BR Pharma.
RILUZOLE		Tablets can be crushed and given in a spoonful of sugar, food puree or yogurt. Crushed tablets can have an anaesthetic effect on the tongue.
RIMACTAZID	B	
RISPERIDONE	C	
ROPINIROLE	B	
SALBUTAMOL TABLETS	C	Do not crush slow release tablets.
SELEGILINE	1. C 2. B 3. E	
SENNA	1. C 2. B	
SERTRALINE	1. B 2. E	Poorly soluble in water. Take immediately after crushing, maybe better in yogurt. Has an anaesthetic effect on the tongue.
SIMVASTATIN	B	
SODIUM VALPROATE	1. C 2. B	Do not crush slow release tablets. Monitor plasma levels.
SOLIFENACIN	A	Crushed tablets have an unpleasant taste.
SOTALOL	1. B 2. E	
SPIRONOLACTONE	1. C 2. B 3. E	
STALEVO™		Change Stalevo™ to equivalent doses of co-careldopa and entacapone, which can be dispersed in water.
STANOZOLOL	B	
SUCRALFATE	1. C 2. A	Stop enteral feed at least 1h prior to administration and for 1h after. Flush tube before and after.
SULINDAC	A	
SULFASALAZINE	1. C 2. B	
SULPIRIDE	1. C 2. B	
TAMOXIFEN	B	
TAMSULOSIN MR	B	Capsules can be opened and modified-release granules mixed with water (not crushed!). The mixture should be given immediately.

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TELMISARTAN		Tablets can be crushed but they do not disperse in water.
TEMAZEPAM	C	Schedule 3 controlled drug.
TEMOZOLOMIDE		Capsules can be opened and contents mixed with 30g apple sauce or apple juice. Appropriate precautions against toxic dust are recommended: wearing gloves and mask.
TETRABENAZINE	B	Tablets can be crushed, dispersed in water and taken immediately.
THEOPHYLLINE	C	Stop enteral feed at least 1h prior to administration and for 2h after. Flush tube before and after. Monitor levels.
THIAMINE	1. B 2. E	
THIORIDAZINE	1. C 2. B	
TOLBUTAMIDE	1. B 2. E	
TOLTERODINE		Immediate release tablets can be crushed and suspended in water
TOPIRAMATE	B	Tablets do not disperse readily in water as they are film-coated, but will disintegrate if shaken in 10ml of water for 5 minutes.
TRAMADOL	1. A* 2. D	* Soluble tablets available.
TRANDOLAPRIL	B	Open capsules and disperse contents in water.
TRANEXAMIC ACID	1. B 2. E	Mouthwash (from Ipswich manufacturing unit) can be taken orally
TRAZODONE	1. B 2. C	
TRIFLUOPERAZINE	1. C 2. B*	* Open capsules and disperse contents in water.
TRIMETHOPRIM	1. C 2. A	
URSODEOXYCHOLIC ACID	1. B 2. C	
VALGANCICLOVIR	E	Potential teratogenic and carcinogenic if contact with skin. Tablets should not be crushed.
VALPROATE SEMISODIUM		Gastro-resistant tablets should not be crushed. If half tablet dose needed, take after food to minimise GI adverse effects.
VALSARTAN	B	Open capsules and disperse contents in water. Monitor blood pressure.
VANCOMYCIN	1. D 2. B* 3. E	* Some brands of capsules may be opened and contents dispersed in water.
VENLAFAXINE	A	Tablets are water-soluble.
VENLAFAXINE XL		Capsules can be opened and sprinkled onto soft food. Take with glass of water.

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VERAPAMIL	1. B* 2. C 3. D	* Do not crush slow release preparations.
VIGABATRIN	A	Sachets available.
VITAMIN B COMPOUND	B	
VITAMIN E	C	
WARFARIN	1. B 2. E	Stop enteral feed at least 2h prior to administration and for 2h after. Flush tube before and after. Monitor INR closely.
ZINC	A*	* Effervescent tablets available.
ZOPICLONE	B	
ZUCLOPENTHIXOL	E	

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#### References

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- A** Tablet will disperse in 1-2 minutes.
- B** Tablet will disperse in greater than 2 minutes.
- C** Liquid preparation available.
- D** Dilute reconstituted injection with 30-60ml of water before administering.
- E** Oral solution/suspension can be prepared by local pharmacy or Non Sterile Preparative Services (PSU at Colchester General Hospital).