

## DRUGS THAT CANNOT BE CRUSHED AND ALTERNATIVES 2014/2015

Nurses and pharmacists often encounter patients who cannot swallow tablets or capsules. Crushing or pulverizing medications can often be a good option for these patients, but many slow-release formulations (i.e., ER, SR, LA, XR, CD, etc.) cannot be crushed. When these medications are crushed, it could cause a dangerously high dose of the medication to be released (called “dose dumping”), which can be harmful to the patient. There is also the possibility to utilize a liquid dosage form or immediate release (IR) tablets that can be crushed and administered in that manner. Each medication needs to be managed differently depending on options available. Pharmacists may be contacted to provide specific recommendations for alternate therapy. Below is a table of some of the common medications that cannot be crushed with alternative therapeutic options:

MEDICATION	SPECIAL NOTES	ALTERNATIVE DOSING
Aciphex® (rabeprazole)	Alternate medication, same class	Prevacid SoluTab® (lansoprazole)
Adderal-XR® (amphetamine/ dextroamphetamine)	Open capsule	Given via NG tube BID
Augmentin-SR® (amoxicillin/clavulanate)	Liquid	Same dose and frequency
Calan-SR® (verapamil)	IR tablet	Total daily dose divided and given q8 <sup>o</sup>
Cardizem-CD/SR® (diltiazem)	IR tablet	Total daily dose divided and given q6-8 <sup>o</sup>
Creon® (pancrelipase) 5, 10, 20mg	Open capsule	Same dose and frequency
Cymbalta® (duloxetine)	Open capsule	Same dose and frequency
Depakote®, Depakote-ER® (divalproex)	Liquid, injection	Total daily dose divided BID
Detrol-LA® (tolterodine)	IR tablet	Total daily dose given BID
Dilantin® (phenytoin)	Liquid or injectable	Same dose and frequency
Ditropan-XL® (oxybutinin)	IR tablet	Total daily dose given BID
Dynacirc-CR® (isradipine)	NO OPTION	Could substitute Norvasc® (amlodipine)
Effexor-XR® (venlafaxine)	IR tablet	Total daily dose given BID or TID
Glucophage-XR® (metformin)	IR tablet	Total daily dose given BID
Glucotrol-XR® (glipizide)	IR tablet	Total daily dose given BID
Imdur® (isosorbide mononitrate)	IR tablet	Isordil® (isosorbide dinitrate); total daily dose given BID
Inderal-LA® (propranolol)	IR tablet	Total daily dose given q6-8 <sup>o</sup>
Indocin-SR® (indomethacin)	IR tablet	Total daily dose given BID or TID
Invega® (paliperidone)	Liquid	Same dose and frequency
Keppra-XR® (levetiracetam)	Liquid, injection, IR tablet	Total daily dose divided BID
Levsinex® (hyoscyamine)	Liquid, injection, IR tablet	Total daily dose divided and given q6o
Lithobid® (lithium)	Liquid, IR tablet	Total daily dose divided and given TID
Lovaza (omega-3 acid)	Alternate medication, same class	
Metadate-ER/CD®, Methylin-ER®, Ritalin-LA®, Concerta® (methylphenidate)	Open capsule	Therapeutic substitution to IR given BID per formulary
Micro-K®, Kdur®, Klor-Con® (potassium chloride)	Liquid, open capsule	Same dose and frequency (must further dilute liquids)
MS-Contin®, Kadian®, Avinza® (morphine sulfate)	Liquid, IR tablet	Total daily dose divided and given q4 <sup>o</sup> (additional PRN doses for breakthrough)
Mucinex(DM)® (guaifenesin [-dextromethrophan])	Liquid, IR tablet	Robitussin® 200-400mg q6 <sup>o</sup> and (dextromethrophan 10-20mg q6 <sup>o</sup> )
Nexium® (esomeprazole)		Prevacid SoluTab®
Niaspan® (niacin)	NO OPTION	IR increases side effects, but may be considered
Nitro-Bid® (nitroglycerin-ER)	Patch, ointment	Patch q24 <sup>o</sup> or ointment q6 <sup>o</sup>
Oxycontin® (oxycodone)	IR tablet	Total daily dose divided q6 <sup>o</sup> (additional PRN doses for breakthrough pain)
Paxil-CR® (paroxetine)	IR tablet	10mg Paxil® = 12.5mg Paxil-CR® both daily
Pradaxa® (dabigatran)	Alternate medication, same class	
Prilosec® (omeprazole)		Prevacid SoluTab®
Pristiq® (desvenlafaxine)	Alternate medication, same class	
Procardia-XL® (nifedipine)	IR capsule	Total daily dose divided q8 <sup>o</sup>
Protonix® (pantoprazole)		Prevacid SoluTab®
Razdyne-ER® (galantamine)	IR tablet	Total dose given BID
Renagel® (sevelamer)	Powder for suspension	Same dose and frequency
Requip-XL® (ropinirole)	IR tablet	Total daily dose given TID
Seroquel-XR® (quetiapine)	IR tablet	Total daily dose given BID
Sinemet-CR® (carbidopa/levodopa)	IR tablet	Total daily dose divided TID
Slo-Mag® (magnesium)	IR tablet or liquid	Mag-Ox® or liquid
Tegretol-XR® (carbamazepine)	Liquid, IR tablet	Total daily dose divided BID with tablet, but QID with suspension
Tessalon® (benzonatate)	Alternate medication, same class	
Toprol-XL® (metoprolol)	IR tablet	Total daily dose divided BID
Wellbutrin-SR®, -XL® (bupropion)	IR tablet	Total daily dose divided TID



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