

TOP TWENTY MOST USED DRUGS - ADMINISTRATION ADVICE ON PATIENTS WITH SWALLOWING DIFFICULTIES OR ENTERAL FEEDING TUBES

The list below provides information relevant to alternative administration in patients with swallowing difficulties and enteral tubes in situ. The information provided is applicable to both routes unless otherwise stated.

This list is not exhaustive and if you cannot find the drug you are looking for on this list please talk to your ward pharmacist or telephone Medicines Information on 723-6001. It is particularly important where a patient is on a critical medicine such as an oral epilepsy or parkinsons medicine and becomes unable to swallow that an alternative be identified by appropriate urgent consultation.

AMLODIPINE	Can be dispersed into water. They take 1 to 5 minutes to disperse. Give immediately after dispersal as the drug is light sensitive.
APIXABAN	Can be crushed and dispersed into water. For enteral tube patients ensure the line is flushed well.
ATORVASTATIN	The tablets can be crushed and mixed with water for administration. Residue may be left so ensure all of the dose is taken. Flush lines well after giving the drug.
BISOPROLOL	The tablets can be crushed finely and mixed with water for administration.
CANDESARTAN	The tablets can be crushed and mixed with water for administration
CITALOPRAM	The tablets may be crushed and disperse in water if the liquid is unavailable. May taste unpleasant.
CLOPIDOGREL	The tablets can be crushed and dispersed into water.
FERROUS SULPHATE	No liquid preparation available. Need to convert to Ferrous Fumarate Liquid. Discuss dosing equivalence with your pharmacist.
GABAPENTIN	Dissolve the contents of the capsule in water and give immediately . For swallowing difficulty patients – Sprinkle the contents of the capsule on food or give in fruit juice to mask unpleasant taste. Give immediately . For enteral tube patients
LANSOPRAZOLE	Use the “Fast” tabs as they are readily dispersible.
LEVOTHYROXINE	The tablets can be crushed and mixed with water for administration.
OMEPRAZOLE	Use the MUPs (multi-unit pellet system) version of Omeprazole which dissolves in water in patients with swallowing difficulties. Can consider switching to Lansoprazole “Fast” Tabs for patients with enteral feeding tubes as it is readily dispersible and licensed for enteral feeding administration.
PREDNISOLONE	The ordinary tablets will disperse in water and can be given to patients with swallowing difficulties or via enteral feeding tubes. The soluble tablets are no longer available.
RAMIPRIL	The tablets can be crushed and dispersed into water and the capsules can be opened and dispersed into water for administration for both swallowing difficulty and enteral tube administration.
RIVAROXABAN	For patients with swallowing difficulties and enteral feeding tube patients using NG/PEG tubes the tablets can be crushed and dispersed into water. It is not advisable to crush the tablets in patients with tubes that terminate beyond the stomach ie. NJ, PEJ and PEGJ.
SIMVASTATIN	The drug can be crushed and mixed with water for administration. Crush finely as the drug is practically insoluble.
TICAGRELOR	The tablets can be crushed and dispersed into water for administration.
THIAMINE	The tablets can be crushed and dispersed in water for administration.
VITAMIN B COMPOUND STRONG	Crush the tablets finely and disperse into water prior to administration. Flush enteral tubes well after administration.
WARFARIN	The tablets can be crushed and disperse into water for administration. Monitor patients INR closely