

DO NOT CRUSH , CHEW, OR CUT LIST

- Medications with two letters after the name indicate extended-action:
XL (Procardia XL), **CD**, **SR**, **SA**, **LA**, **CC**, **CR**, **TR**, ...
Exceptions: Septra DS (double strength) may crush
aspirin EC (enteric coated) may NOT crush
Note: Plendil is ordered most often without the ending "SA"
- Medications with the following included as suffixes or prefixes:
 - **dur** duration (Theodur, K-Dur, Imdur, Quinaglute Duratabs)
 - **bid** twice a day vs four times a day (Slobid, Theobid, Humabid)
 - kote** coated product (Depakote)
 - exten** extended action (Micro-K Extencaps)
 - contin** continuous (MS-Contin, OxyContin)
 - 24** acts for 24 hours (Theo-24)
 - Sus-** sustained action (Sustaire)
 - Slo-** slow action (Slow-K, Slobid, Slophyllin, SloFe, SloMag)
 - Spansule long-acting capsule (Compazine Spansule)
 - Titradose long-acting tablet (Isordil Titradose)
 - Repetabs long-acting form (Proventil Repetab)
- **Potassium** – do not crush any, Micro-K may be opened. K-Dur may be dissolved.
- Contents from capsules, short-acting and long-acting which can be opened may be crushed if short-acting but, long-acting contents should not be crushed, they should be placed onto of the applesauce or other. Note: larger beads may clog enteral tubes. Alternative products should be chosen by the physician.
* Geriatric Medication Handbook, American Society of Consultant Pharmacists, 2004
- **Gelatin capsules** may be punctured and squeezed or aspirated. A new lancet should be utilized for every puncture. Wipeable (bandage) scissors may be used to cut the tip of the capsule off. (For capsules (Procardia) which are not flexible enough to squeeze out all of the contents, there should be some indication that the physician is aware this is occurring. Adding to the order "may cut and squeeze" will facilitate this requirement.) Some products are extremely bad tasting DSS (bitter) and Depakene and alternatives should be chosen (DSS powder capsules, liquid, tablet or syrup). * Geriatric Medication Handbook, American Society of Consultant Pharmacists, 2004
- Capsules which are **banded or sealed** are not to be opened. Including **Dilantin**. The trade name are still banded, watch for the generic which are not sealed or banded – they should not be opened. If the Dilantin cannot be swallowed whole, then chewable (crushable also) 50mg tablets or suspension would need to be utilized. The dosing should be divided into at least a twice a day regimen (ex: Dilantin 300mg caps HS -> Dilantin suspension 6cc (150mg) BID).
- **Enteric coated** products need to remain whole until they reach the intestines. Crushing these products eliminates the purpose of them being coated. They will remain whole through an acidic environment until they reach a neutral or basic environment after which they will dissolve.
Products include:

Ecotrin	E-mycin	Depakote	Voltaren	Protonix	Carafate
Aciphex	Dulcolax	DES	Zorprin	Trental	Prempro
- **Chewing** of any long-acting, enteric-coated, or sub-lingual products should not occur. The nurse should contact the physician to change these products.
- **Miscellaneous** – Actonel + Fosamax may cause esophageal erosion if crushed.