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## **FERROUS GLUCONATE - CRUSH**

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### **POLICY**

Ferrous gluconate or sulfate products may be crushed, chewed, or opened prior to administration for those residents who cannot swallow whole tablets.

### **PROCEDURE**

Nursing staff may determine based upon swallowing issues and/or resident preference which dosage form is going to be utilized.

Alternate agents that may be utilized are ferrous sulfate liquid.

Some manufacturers of iron list on their bottle to not crush or chew the tablets. This is often due to the potential for GI upset from iron itself.

The tablets may be crushed, administered, and this therapy maintained until symptom of GI upset are present, at which point the dose could be lowered or changed to a liquid formulation.

This applies only to orders for non-enteric coated tablets. Although, if the order is for the non-enteric coated form, an enteric coated table may be crushed and administered.