

SENIOR INFORMATION & ASSISTANCE

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Don't Crush These Drugs!

Many drug forms are made to release their active ingredients over a certain period of time or at preset points after administration. The disruptions caused by crushing or chewing these drug forms can dramatically affect the absorption rate and increase the risk of adverse reactions.

Other reasons not to crush or chew these drug forms include such considerations as taste, tissue irritation, and unusual formulation—for example, a capsule within a capsule, a liquid within a capsule, or a multiple-compressed tablet. Avoid crushing the following drugs, listed by brand name, for the reasons noted beside them.

Key: **CR** —controlled release; **DA** — delayed absorption; **DR** — delayed release; **EC** — enteric coated; **ER** — enteric release; **GC** — granules within capsule; **HGC** — hard gelatin capsule; **IR** — irritant; **LC** — liquid within capsule; **LF** — liquid filled; **MMI** — mucous membrane irritant; **PC** — protective coating; **SL** — sublingual; **SPT** — strong, persistent taste; **SR** — slow release; **SSR** — sustained release; **TS** — taste

Accutane (IR)	Chlor-Trimeton Allergy 8-hour	Dilatrate-SR (SR)
Aciphex (DR)	and 12-hour (SR)	Diltia XT (ER)
Adalat CC (SSR)	Choledyl SA (SR)	Dimetapp Extentabs (SR)
Advicor (ER)	Cipro XR (ER)	Ditropan XL (SR)
Aggrenox (ER)	Claritin-D 12-hour or 24-hour (SR)	Dolobid (IR)
Allegra-D (ER)	Colace (LC)	Drisdol (LF)
Altocor (ER)	Colazal (GC, must reach colon intact)	Dristan (PC)
Amnesteem (IR)	Colestid (PC)	Drixoral (SR)
Arthrotec (DR)	Compazine Spansules (SR)	Dulcolax (EC)
Asacol (DR)	Concerta (ER)	DynaCirc CR (SR)
Augmentin XR (ER)	Congress SR (SSR)	Easprin (EC)
Avinza (ER)	Contact 12 Hour, Maximum Strength 12 Hour (SR)	Ecotrin (EC)
Azulfidine EN-tabs (EC)	Cotazym-S (EC)	Ecotrin Maximum Strength (EC)
Bellergal-S (SR)	Covera-HS (ER)	E.E.S. 400 Filmtab (EC)
Biaxin XL (ER)	Creon (EC)	Effexor XR (ER)
Bisacodyl (EC)	Cytovene (IR)	Emend (HGC)
Bontril Slow-Release (SR)	Dallergy, Dallergy-JR (SR)	E-Mycin (EC)
Breonesin (LF)	Deconamine SR (SR)	Entex LA (SR)
Brexin L.A. (SR)	Depakene (SR, MMI)	Entex PSE (SR)
Bromfed, Bromfed-PD (SR)	Depakote (EC)	Eryc (EC)
Calan SR (SSR)	Depakote ER (ER)	Ery-Tab (EC)
Carbatrol (ER)	Desyrel (TS)	Erythrocin Stearate (EC)
Cardizem CD, LA, SR (SR)	Dexedrine Spansule (SR)	Erythromycin Base (EC)
Cartia XT (ER)	Diamox Sequels (SR)	
Ceclor CD (SR)	Dilacor XR (ER)	
Ceftin (SPT)		
Charcoal Plus DS (EC)		

Eskalith CR (SR)	Metadate CD, ER (ER)	Slo-Phyllin GG,
Extendryl JR, SR (SR)	Methylin ER (ER)	Gyrocaps (SR)
Feldene (MMI)	Micro-K Extencaps (SR)	Slow-FE (SR)
Feosol (EC)	Motrin (TS)	Slow-K (SR)
Feratab (EC)	MS Contin (SR)	Slow-Mag (SR)
Fergon (SR)	Mucinex (ER)	Sorbitrate (SL)
Fero-Folic 500 (SR)	Naprelan (SR)	Sotret (IR)
Fero-Grad-500 (SR)	Nexium (SSR)	Sudafed 12 Hour (SR)
Ferro-Sequel (SR)	Niaspan (ER)	Sustaire (SR)
Feverall Children's Capsules,	Nitroglyn (SR)	Tegretol-XR (ER)
Sprinkle (TS)	Nitrong (SR)	Ten-K (SR)
Flomax (SR)	Nitrostat (SL)	Tenuate Dospan (SR)
Fumatonic (SR)	Norflex (SR)	Tessalon Perles (SR)
Geocillin (TS)	Norpace CR (SR)	Theobid Duracaps
Glucophage XR (ER)	Oramorph SR (SR)	(SR)
Glucotrol XL (SR)	Oruvail (ER)	Theochron (SR)
Guaifed (SR)	OxyContin (SR)	Theoclear LA (SR)
Guaifed-PD, Guaifenex LA	Pancrease, Pancrease MT	Theolair-SR (SR)
(SR)	(EC)	Theo-Sav (SR)
Guaifenex PSE (SR)	Paxil CR (CR)	Theospan-SR (SR)
Humibid DM, LA, Pediatric	PCE Dispertabs (SR)	Theo-24 (SR)
(SR)	Pentasa (CR)	Theovent (SR)
Hydergine LC (LC)	Phazyme, Phazyme 95 (SR)	Theo-X (SR)
Hytakerol (LF)	Phenytek (ER)	Thorazine Spansules
Iberet (SR)	Plendil (SR)	(SR)
ICAPS Plus, Time Release	Prelu-2 (SR)	Tiazac (SSR)
(SR)	Prevacid, Prevacid SoluTab	Topamax (TS)
Imdur (SR)	(DR)	Toprol XL (ER)
Inderal LA (SR)	Prilosec (SR)	T-Phyl (SR)
Indocin SR (SR)	Prilosec OTC (DR)	Trental (SR)
InnoPran XL (ER)	Pro-Banthine (TS)	Trinalin Repetabs (SR)
Ionamin (SR)	Procanbid (SR)	Tylenol Extended
Isoptin SR (SSR)	Procardia (DA)	Relief (SR)
Isordil Sublingual (SL)	Procardia XL (SR)	Uniphyl (SR)
Isordil Tembids (SR)	Protonix (DR)	Vantin (TS)
Isosorbide Dinitrate Sublingual	Proventil Repetabs (SR)	Verelan, Verelan PM
(SL)	Prozac Weekly (SR)	(SR)
Kaon-CI (SR)	Quibron-T/SR (SR)	Volmax (SR)
K-Dur (SR)	Quinidex Extentabs (SR)	Voltaren (EC)
Klor-Con (SR)	Respaire SR (SR)	Voltaren-XR (ER)
Klotrix (SR)	Respbid (SR)	Wellbutrin SR (SSR)
K-Tab (SR)	Risperdal M-Tab (DR)	Xanax XR (ER)
Levbid (SR)	Ritalin-LA, -SR (SR)	Zerit XR (ER)
Levsinex Timecaps (SR)	Rondec-TR (SR)	Zomig-ZMT (DR)
Lithobid (SR)	Sinemet CR (SR)	ZORprin (SR)
Macrobid (SR)	Slo-bid Gyrocaps (SR)	Zyban (SR)
Mestinon Timespans (SR)	Slo-Niacin (SR)	Zyrtec-D 12 hour (ER)

Source : Spring Nurse's Drug Guide 2005, Lippincott William & Wilkins, 2005.