

# Managing medication for patients with swallowing difficulties

Drug	Suggested alternative
<b>Captopril</b>	Tablets may be crushed/dispersed in water (depending on manufacturer).
<b>Citalopram</b>	Citalopram oral drops (40mg/ml) as citalopram hydrochloride is a licensed preparation. 8mg citalopram hydrochloride (4 drops) = 10mg citalopram hydrobromide (tablet). Can be mixed with water, orange or apple juice
<b>Clonazepam</b>	Tablets (Rivotril®) disperse in water.
<b>Dipyridamole</b>	200mg capsules are hard gelatin capsules containing modified-release granules. The contents of the 200mg modified release capsules (Persantin Retard) may be opened and administered mixed with a small amount of water or food. The 25mg and 100mg immediate release tablets may be crushed prior to administration.
<b>Gabapentin</b>	Open capsule and mix contents of capsule with water
<b>Glycopyrronium</b>	Consider switch to hyoscine 1mg/72 hour patch (Scopoderm TTS), or hyoscine chewable tablets. The patch may be cut to an appropriate size to get correct dose.
<b>Hyoscine</b>	Consider switch to hyoscine 1mg/72 hour patch (Scopoderm TTS), or hyoscine chewable tablets. The patch may be cut to an appropriate size to get correct dose.
<b>Iron</b>	Switch to sodium feredetate liquid 190mg/5ml (Sytron); 5ml = 27.5mg elemental iron. See BNF section 9.1.1.1 for elemental iron content of different iron salts
<b>Mebeverine</b>	135mg standard release tablet may be crushed. Modified release preparations should not be crushed.
<b>Metformin</b>	Metformin oral powder 500mg and 1000mg sachets are a licensed alternative. The contents of the sachet are mixed with water.
<b>Morphine (Zomorph)</b>	Information for Zomorph capsules only. For patients who cannot swallow the capsules, their contents can be administered directly in semi-solid food (puree, jam, yoghurt) or via gastric or gastrostomy tubes of a diameter of more than 16 F.G. with an open distal end or lateral pores. It is sufficient to rinse the tube with 30ml to 50ml of water.
<b>Omeprazole</b>	Losec MUPs formulation may be dispersed in water prior to administration.
<b>Ramipril</b>	The contents of capsules disperse in water or may be placed in mouth or on bread. Contents reported to taste unpleasant. Tablets (Tritace) disperse quickly in water (2-5 mins).
<b>Simvastatin</b>	Tablets may be crushed but may not readily disperse in water due to tablet coating (depending on preparation).
<b>Spirolactone</b>	Tablets may be crushed and dispersed in water immediately prior to administration
<b>Tacrolimus</b>	Prograf 500microgram, 1mg and 5mg immediate release capsules - the contents of the capsule pours easily from the capsule. These capsules may be difficult to open due to their small size.

For further information, please see Area Prescribing Committee website:  
[http://www.formulary.cht.nhs.uk/Guidelines/APC/Main\\_Index.htm](http://www.formulary.cht.nhs.uk/Guidelines/APC/Main_Index.htm). Medication and Enteral Feeding.