

Central Administration of Pharmaceutical Care
General Administration of Drug Utilization and Pharmacy Practice



National Drug Lists

Egyptian Do Not Crush Medication List 2026

Code: EDREX: NDL.CAP.care.005

Version No.: 1

Issue Date: 15 April 2026

Title: Egyptian Don't Crush Medication List
Code: EDREX: NDL.CAP.care.005
Version /year: 1/2026

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Acknowledgments

The **General Administration of Drug Utilization and Pharmacy Practice** extends its deepest gratitude to **Dr. Ali Elghamrawy**, Chairman of the **Egyptian Drug Authority (EDA)**, for his exceptional leadership and unwavering commitment to advancing pharmaceutical services in Egypt. His vision and dedication have been pivotal in driving progress in this field.

We would also like to express our sincere appreciation to **Dr. Abeer Elbehairy**, **Head of the Pharmaceutical Care Central Administration**. We are truly grateful for her enduring support. Dr. Elbehairy has been instrumental in ensuring all goals and objectives are achieved.

The achievement of the **Egyptian Don't Crush Medication List** is a testament to the expertise and commitment of the **Pharmacy Practice Guides and National Drug Lists' Committee Members**. Their rigorous scientific review, insightful recommendations, and unwavering guidance ensured that the list adheres to the highest standards. We deeply appreciate their exceptional contributions.

We also extend our **special thanks** to the distinguished medical experts who generously shared their knowledge and expertise as invited committee members. Their valuable input significantly enriched this initiative.

Finally, we acknowledge with gratitude the constructive feedback and contributions from representatives of the **Ministry of Health and Population** and the **Egyptian Healthcare Authority**. Their insights were crucial in shaping this work.

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List of Abbreviations

DR	Delayed Release
ER, XR	Extended Release
MR	Modified Release
SR	Sustained Release
CR	Controlled Release
NIOSH	National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
MSHI	Manufacturer's Special Handling Information

Introduction

Definition

Medications that should stay intact. These medications should not be crushed, split (unless stated otherwise by the manufacturer, as some Modified-Release preparations can be split. Some Tablets are scored and may be broken in half without affecting release characteristic), or chewed.

Crushing, splitting, or chewing certain medications can increase the odds of experiencing side effects. It could also make medication less effective.

Classes of medications that should not be crushed

1- Modified-release dosage forms (tablets or capsules): includes the following

- a- Delayed release (DR)
- b- Extended release (ER, XR)
- c- Modified release (MR)
- d- Sustained release (SR)
- e- Controlled release (CR)
 - These are designed to release medicine over an extended period to allow less frequent administration.
 - Crushing these medications can result in the administration of a large dose all at once.
 - Some tablets are scored and may be broken in half without affecting the release characteristic.

2- Enteric coated dosage forms (tablets)

- These have a special coating to:
 - Protect the stomach from the drug.
 - Protect the drug from stomach acid.
 - Target the release of the drug in the intestines.
- Crushing may lead to the medicine being released too early, being destroyed by stomach acid, or irritating the stomach wall.

Always refer to the manufacturer's instructions.

3- Dissolvable dosage forms (tablets)

These include:

- Sublingual tablets
- Orally disintegrating tablets
- Effervescent tablets

– Crushing these tablets can alter effectiveness as it may cause a loss of dosage.

4- Drugs that are irritants to the mucous membrane

These can irritate the gut lining or skin if tampered with.

5- Drugs considered to be hazardous (cytotoxic or risking reproductive harm)

– These can be harmful to the individual, crushing the medications.

– Hazardous medications include most oral chemotherapy agents, which are cytotoxic, and other drugs known to cause reproductive disorders or other toxicities. Special precautions should be followed when handling oral hazardous medications, including the use of personal protective equipment (e.g., special gloves, gowns, and masks). Therefore, if these medications need to be split or crushed, it should be done in the pharmacy in a biologic safety cabinet.

– These are called the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) hazardous medication list.

– These are medications that:

a- Include manufacturer's special handling information (MSHI) to protect workers handling the drug, or

b- Are identified as carcinogenic hazard, developmental hazard, reproductive hazard, genotoxic hazard, or other health hazard by exhibiting one or more of the following toxicity criteria in humans, animal models, or in vitro systems:

- Carcinogenicity
- Developmental toxicity (including teratogenicity)
- Reproductive toxicity
- Genotoxicity
- Organ toxicity at low doses
- Structure and toxicity profile that mimics existing drugs determined hazardous by exhibiting any one of the previous five toxicity types.

Always refer to the manufacturer's instructions.

6- Medications manufactured with special technologies

These include:

- Amorphous solid dispersion
- Nanocrystals
- Crushing pills based on certain technologies (i.e., amorphous solid dispersion or nanocrystals) can alter bioavailability.
- Medications with this complicated technology need to stay intact so they can be effectively absorbed into the bloodstream.

7- Capsules with liquid content

Soft gelatin capsules (with liquid filling) should not be chewed or split. Removal of the liquid inside may lead to incorrect dosage.

Some soft gelatin capsules may be opened and the liquid contents removed for administration.

8- Tablets that are coated for taste modification

These medications are coated to improve their taste. If crushed, the unpleasant taste would surface, which could discourage patients from taking the medication.

Some tablets can be crushed, and a taste modifier can be added.

9- Medications with very precise dosing requirements

- As narrow therapeutic window medications.
- Medications with a narrow therapeutic index, if split into uneven parts and taken, the dose may be too high or too low.

Example: warfarin or levothyroxine.

10- Very small or asymmetrical tablets

- Some small tablets tend to crumble when split.
- On crushing some tablets, some drug residue may remain on the crushing device or in the container, which decreases the dose of the drug being administered.

Always refer to the manufacturer's instructions.

Egyptian List of the Do-Not-Crush Medications

These are the most reported medications to cause errors when crushed, as against what is recommended for them.

Active Ingredient	Dosage Form	Cause / Comment
Irritants		
Isotretinoin	Soft gelatin capsules	Mucous membrane irritant
Everolimus	Tablets	Mucous membrane irritant
Dutasteride alone or in combination	Soft gelatin capsule; hard gelatin capsules	Mucous membrane irritation. Note: The drug may cause fetal abnormalities; women who are, or may become, pregnant should not handle capsules; all women should use caution in handling capsules, especially leaking capsules.
Ibandronate	Film-coated tablets	Note: Chewed, crushed, or sucked tablets may cause oropharyngeal irritation.
Alendronate alone or in combination	Film-coated tablets, tablets	Mucous membrane irritant
Valproic acid	Gastro-resistant soft gelatin capsule	Mucous membrane irritant
Piroxicam	Capsule, tablets	Mucous membrane irritant
Acetylsalicylic acid (Aspirin)	Tablets	Irritant
Diclofenac	Sugar-coated tablets; film-coated tablets	Irritant
Imatinib	Film-coated tablets	Mucous membrane irritant
Diflunisal	Tablets	Irritant (gastric)
Mycophenolate	Film-coated tablets, hard gelatin capsules	Irritant
Pancreatic Enzymes	Film-coated tablets, sugar-coated tablets	Irritant
Valganciclovir	Film-coated tablets	Irritant
Atomoxetine	Hard gelatin capsules	Note: Capsule contents can cause ocular irritation.

Always refer to the manufacturer's instructions.

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temozolomide	Hard gelatin capsules	Mucous membrane irritant. Note: Accidentally opened or damaged capsules require rigorous precautions to avoid inhalation or contact with the skin or mucous membranes.
Modified-Release Oral Solid Dosage Forms		
Rabeprazole	Delayed-release enteric-coated tablets	Delayed release
Nifedipine	Sustained-release film-coated tablets	Sustained release
Dalfampridine	Extended-release tablet, extended-release film-coated tablets	Extended release
Cyclobenzaprine	Extended-release capsule, hard gelatin capsules containing extended-release pellets	Extended release
Bupropion alone or in combination	Sustained-release film-coated tablets, sustained-release tablet, extended-release tablet	Sustained or extended release
Methylphenidate	Extended-release tablet, extended-release hard gelatin capsule	Extended release
Donepezil in combinations	Extended-release hard gelatin capsule	Extended release
Tacrolimus	Prolonged-release hard capsule	Prolonged release
Clarithromycin	Extended-release film-coated tablets, sustained-release film-coated tablets, modified-release film-coated tablets	Extended release, sustained release, modified release
Doxylamine /Pyridoxine	Extended-release film-coated tablets, delayed-release film-coated tablets	Extended release, delayed release
Carbamazepine	Controlled-release tablet, controlled-release film-coated tablet, sustained-release tablet	Controlled release
Diltiazem	Modified-release tablets	Modified release
Doxazosin	Modified-Release Film Coated Tablets; Prolonged-Release tablets	Modified release
Cefaclor	Sustained-release film-coated tablets	Sustained release, modified release
Ciprofloxacin	Extended-release film-coated tablets	Extended release
Tramadol	Sustained-release tablet	Sustained release
Carvedilol	Hard gelatin capsules containing extended-release pellets; extended-release hard gelatin capsule	Extended release

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Duloxetine	Delayed-release hard gelatin capsules containing enteric-coated pellets, hard gelatin capsules containing delayed-release pellets	Delayed release
Mesalamine (Mesalazine)	Hard gelatin capsules containing extended-release pellets, prolonged-release granules	Extended release, prolonged release
Tolterodine	Extended-release hard gelatin capsule	Extended release
Dexlansoprazole	Delayed-release hard gelatin capsule, delayed-release capsule containing enteric-coated pellets	Delayed release
Isosorbide mononitrate	Prolonged-release hard gelatin capsule containing pellets, retard film-coated tablet	Prolonged release
Isosorbide Dinitrate	Sustained-release capsule	Sustained release
Oxybutynin	Extended-release film-coated tablets	Extended release
Doxycycline	Modified-Release Hard Gelatin Capsule	Modified release
Venlafaxine	Extended-Release hard gelatin capsule, hard gelatin capsules containing extended-release pellets, sustained-release capsule	Extended release
Darifenacin	Extended-release film-coated tablets, extended-release tablet	Extended release
Budesonide	Extended-Release Film Coated Tablets	Extended release
Felodipine	Sustained-release film-coated tablets, prolonged-release film-coated tablets, modified-release film-coated tablets	Sustained release, prolonged release, modified release
Levomilnacipran	Extended-release capsules, hard gelatin capsules containing extended-release pellets, extended-release capsules containing sustained-release pellets	Extended release
Tamsulosin alone or in combination	Modified-release hard gelatin capsule, modified-release capsules containing pellets, hard gelatin capsules containing sustained-release pellets	Modified release, sustained release
Metformin	Extended-release tablet	Extended release
Gabapentin	Extended-release tablet, extended-release film-coated tablets	Extended release
Guaifenesin alone or in combination	Extended-release tablet, extended-release bi-layer tablet	Extended release
Paliperidone	Prolonged-release tablets	Prolonged release

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Canagliflozin /Metformin combination	Extended-release film-coated tablets	Extended release
Metformin / Sitagliptin combination	Extended-release film-coated tablets	Extended release
Linagliptin / Metformin combination	Extended-release tablet	Extended release
Levetiracetam	Extended-release film-coated tablets	Extended release
Desvenlafaxine	Extended-release film-coated tablets, sustained-release film-coated tablets, extended-release tablets	Extended release
Saxagliptin / Metformin combination	Extended-Release Tablet, Extended-Release Film Coated Tablets	Extended release
Lamotrigine	Extended-Release enteric-coated tablets	Extended release
Lithium	Prolonged-release tablets, controlled-release tablets	Prolonged release, controlled release
Pyridostigmine	Sustained-release film-coated tablets	Sustained release
Mirabegron	Extended-release film-coated tablets; prolonged-release tablets	Extended release
Memantine	Hard gelatin capsules containing extended-release pellets	Extended release
Memantine / Donepezil	Extended-release hard gelatin capsule	Extended release
Esomeprazole	Delayed-release hard gelatin capsule, hard gelatin capsules containing delayed-release pellets, delayed-release capsule	Delayed release
Niacin	Extended-release film-coated tablets	Extended release
Nitroglycerin	Sustained-release capsule	Sustained release
Orphenadrine	Extended-release tablet, retard tablet	Extended release
Posaconazole	Delayed-release tablets	Delayed release
Tapentadol	Prolonged-release tablets	Prolonged release
Oxycodone	Prolonged-release tablets	Prolonged release
Oxcarbazepine	Extended-release tablet	Extended release
Paroxetine	Controlled-release tablet, enteric film-coated controlled-release tablets, extended-release film-coated tablets	Controlled and extended release
Lansoprazole	Hard gelatin capsules containing delayed-release pellets	Delayed release

Always refer to the manufacturer's instructions.

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Omeprazole	Hard gelatin capsules containing delayed-release pellets	Delayed release
Pantoprazole	Delayed-release tablets	Delayed release
Fluoxetine	Delayed-release hard gelatin capsule containing pellets	Delayed release
Ranolazine	Extended-release film-coated tablets, prolonged-release tablets	Extended and prolonged release
Galantamine	Prolonged-release hard gelatin capsules	Prolonged release
Ropinirole	Prolonged-release film-coated tablet	Prolonged release
Carbidopa / Levodopa	Controlled-release film-coated tablet, controlled-release tablet	Controlled release
Empagliflozin / Metformin	Extended-release film-coated tablets	Extended release
Empagliflozin /Linagliptin / Metformin	Extended-release film-coated tablets	Extended release
Dimethyl fumarate	Delayed-release capsule	Delayed release
Theophylline	Sustained-release tablet	Sustained release
Metoprolol Succinate	Prolonged-release tablets	Prolonged release
Fesoterodine	Extended-release film-coated tablets	Extended release
Pentoxifylline	Sustained-release capsule, sustained-release film-coated tablets, controlled-release film-coated tablet	Sustained release
Potassium Citrate	Extended-release tablet	Extended release
Alfuzosin	Prolonged-release tablets, modified-release tablets	Prolonged and modified release
Verapamil	Sustained-release film coated tablets, prolonged-release tablets	Sustained and prolonged release
Diclofenac Sodium	Sustained-release tablet; modified-release tablets	Sustained release
Salbutamol	Controlled-release tablet, sustained-release capsule	Controlled and sustained release
Alprazolam	Sustained-release tablet	Sustained release
Tofacitinib	Extended-release tablet	Extended release
Dapagliflozin/Metformin	Extended-release film-coated tablets	Extended release
Paracetamol	Extended-release bi-layer tablet, modified-release caplets	Extended and modified release

Always refer to the manufacturer's instructions.

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Quetiapine	Extended-release film-coated tablets; extended-release tablet	Extended release
Indapamide	Sustained-release film-coated tablets	Sustained release
Indapamide /Amlodipine	Bilayer modified-release film-coated tablet	Modified release
Trimetazidine	Modified-release film coated tablets	Modified release
Ketoprofen	Sustained-release film coated tablets; sustained-re- lease capsule; hard gelatin capsules containing modi- fied-release pellets	Sustained release
Tizanidine	Sustained-release film coated tablets	Sustained release
Salbutamol	Sustained-release capsule; controlled-release tablet	Sustained release
Loratadine / Pseudoephed- rine Sulphate	Extended-release film coated tablets	Extended release
Mebeverine	Modified-release capsules; sustained-release capsule; hard gelatin capsules containing modified-release pellets; sustained-release film coated tablets	Modified release
Enteric Coated Tablets		
Rabeprazole	Enteric-coated tablets	Enteric coated
Acetylsalicylic Acid (Aspirin)	Enteric-coated tablet	Enteric coated
Sulfasalazine	Enteric-coated tablet	Enteric coated
Bisacodyl	Enteric-coated tablet	Enteric coated
Mesalamine (Mesalazine)	Enteric-coated tablet	Enteric coated
Mycophenolic acid	Gastro-resistant film-coated tablet	Gastro resistant
Lansoprazole	Hard gelatin capsules containing enteric-coated pel- lets	Enteric coated
Omeprazole	Hard gelatin capsules containing enteric-coated pel- lets	Enteric coated
Pantoprazole	Enteric-coated tablet; gastro-resistant tablet	Enteric coated
Chymotrypsin/Trypsin	Enteric-coated tablet; enteric film coated tablet	Enteric coated
Aescin	Enteric Coated Tablet	Enteric coated

Always refer to the manufacturer's instructions.

Dissolvable Dosage Forms and Medications whose Effectiveness is Affected by Crushing		
Fentanyl	Sublingual tablet	Sublingual tablet
Donepezil	Orally disintegrating tablets; oro-dispersible film, dispersible tablet	Orally disintegrating tablets
Acetylsalicylic Acid (Aspirin) in combination	Effervescent tablet	Effervescent tablet
Amoxicillin; clavulanic acid	Dispersible tablet	Dispersible tablet
Carglumic acid	Dispersible tablet	Dispersible tablet Note: Tablets should be dispersed completely in water.
Deferasirox	Dispersible tablet	Dispersible Tablet
Levetiracetam	Orally disintegrating tablets	Orally disintegrating tablets
Hyoscyamine	Sublingual tablet	Sublingual tablet
Memantine	Oro-dispersible tablet	Oro-dispersible tablet
Macitentan	Film-coated tablets	Need to be taken with a cup of water
Miconazole	Mucoadhesive buccal tablets	Buccal tablets
Dabigatran	Hard capsule	Note: Breaking, chewing, or emptying the contents of the capsule can result in increased exposure.
Sirolimus	Sugar-coated tablets	Note: pharmacokinetic parameters may be affected.
Carbidopa / Levodopa	Orally disintegrating tablets	Orally disintegrating tablets
Acyclovir	Dispersible tablet	Dispersible tablet
Selexipag	Film-coated tablets	Needed to be taken with a glass of water.
Pazopanib	Film-coated tablets	Note: Crushing significantly increases the AUC and T _{max}
Ondansetron	Oro-dispersible tablet, dispersible tablet, oral soluble film, orally disintegrating tablets, fast melt tablets	Oro-dispersible tablet, Dispersible Tablet, oral soluble film,

Always refer to the manufacturer's instructions.

		orally disintegrating Tablets, Fast Melt Tablets
Acetylcysteine	Effervescent tablet	Effervescent tablet
Desloratadine	Orally disintegrating tablet	Disintegrating tablet
PREDNISOLONE	Orally disintegrating tablet; oro-dispersible tablet	Disintegrating tablet
Famotidine	Oro-dispersible film	Oro-dispersible film
Drugs Considered to Be Hazardous		
Alectinib	Hard capsule	Antineoplastic
Bosutinib	Film-coated tablets	Antineoplastic
Mycophenolate	Film-coated tablets, hard gelatin capsules	Teratogenic potential
Cabozantinib	Film-coated tablets	Antineoplastic
Cyclophosphamide	Sugar-coated tablets	Antineoplastic
Hydroxyurea	Hard gelatin capsules	Antineoplastic Note: Exposure to the powder may cause serious skin toxicities; health care workers should wear gloves to administer
Palbociclib	Film-coated tablets, hard gelatin capsules	Antineoplastic
Ponatinib	Film-coated tablets	Antineoplastic
Ibrutinib	Hard gelatin capsules	Antineoplastic
Axitinib	Film-coated tablets	Antineoplastic
Ribociclib	Film-coated tablets	Antineoplastic
Lenvatinib	Hard gelatin capsules	Antineoplastic
Olaparib	Film-coated tablets	Antineoplastic
Ixazomib	Hard gelatin capsules	Antineoplastic
Finasteride	Film-coated tablets	Note: Women who are, or may become, pregnant, should not handle crushed or broken tablets

Always refer to the manufacturer's instructions.

Lenalidomide	Hard gelatin capsules	Note: Teratogenic potential; healthcare workers should avoid contact with the capsule contents/body fluids.
Dasatinib	Film-coated tablets	Note: Active ingredients are surrounded by a wax matrix to prevent healthcare exposure; women who are, or may become, pregnant should not handle crushed or broken tablets.
Nilotinib	Hard gelatin capsules	Note: Disruption of the capsule may yield high blood levels, causing enhanced toxicity.
Osimertinib	Film-coated tablets	Antineoplastic
Crizotinib	Hard gelatin capsules	Antineoplastic
Regorafenib	Film-coated tablets	Antineoplastic
Bosentan	Tablets, film coated tablets	Note: Women who are, or may become, pregnant should not handle crushed or broken tablets.
Venetoclax	Tablets	Antineoplastic
Enzalutamide	Film-coated tablets, soft gelatin capsule	Antineoplastic
Niraparib	Film-coated tablets	Antineoplastic
Abiraterone	Tablets, film coated tablets	Antineoplastic
Medications with Very Precise Dosing Requirements		
Donepezil HCl 23 mg	Film-coated tablets	Note: Crushing the 23 mg tablet may significantly increase the rate of absorption; the 5 mg and 10 mg tablets are not affected.
Cinacalcet	Film-coated tablets	Note: Tablets are not scored, and cutting may cause variable dosage accuracy.
Carbidopa /Entacapone / Levodopa	Film-coated tablets	Note: Combining multiple tablets or portions of tablets may lead to an overdose of entacapone.

Always refer to the manufacturer's instructions.

Tablets that are Coated for Taste-Modification and Capsules		
Praziquantel	Film-coated tablets	Taste
Cefuroxime	Film-coated tablets	Taste
Docusate	Hard gelatin capsules	Taste
levetiracetam	Film-coated tablets	Taste
Ibuprofen	Tablets, film-coated tablets	Taste
Nintedanib	Soft gelatin capsule	Taste
Topiramate	Film-coated tablets	Taste
Solifenacin	Film-coated tablets	Taste
Capsules with Liquid Content		
Ergocalciferol	Soft gelatin capsule	Liquid filled
Calcifediol	Soft capsule	Liquid filled
Alfacalcidol	Soft gelatin capsule	Liquid filled
Icosapent ethyl	Soft gelatin capsule	Liquid filled
Alfacalcidol	Soft gelatin capsule	Liquid filled
Medications Manufactured with Special Technologies		
Linacotide	Coated beads in hard gelatin capsules	Note: Do not crush or chew the capsule or capsule contents. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Sprinkle the entire contents (beads) on applesauce or into water (30 ml of bottled water) – Beads are not to be chewed but swallowed as a whole. – The drug is coated on the surface of the beads and will dissolve off the beads into the water.
Alogliptin /Pioglitazone	Bilayer film coated tablets	The tablet should not be split.

Always refer to the manufacturer's instructions.

Best Practice for Crushing Medications

If the patient has [difficulty swallowing pills](#) and there are no liquid or syrup formulations available, crushing pills may be a reasonable option. However, not every pill can be crushed, as doing so can affect the absorption and effectiveness of certain medications.

Crushing or dispersing tablets and opening capsules before administration may be necessary in some situations:

- For patients with swallowing difficulties.
 - For covert oral administration of medicines.
 - Immediately following [bariatric surgery](#).
 - Administration via enteral feeding tubes.
- Not all tablets can be crushed, or capsules open, and it is important to check beforehand.
- Follow the following steps before administration of any solid dosage form in case of the above-mentioned conditions that necessitate crushing:
- 1- **Checking if tablets can be crushed or capsules opened by checking on the Egyptian Do not Crush Medication List and review of manufacturer instructions.**
 - 2- **Check the alternative to crushing medications:** If a medication cannot be crushed, there are alternative options:
 - **Liquid Form**
Many medications are available in liquid form, which can be easier for patients to swallow.
 - **Transdermal Patches**
For pain management and other conditions, patches that release medication through the skin can be a great alternative.
 - **Sublingual or Buccal (Cheek) Tablets**
Medications designed to dissolve under the tongue or in the cheek can be an excellent option when swallowing is difficult.
 - **Suppositories**
Suppositories may be used if the patient is unable to take medications orally due to severe nausea or vomiting.
 - **Injectable Medications**
Some medications can be given as injections if swallowing is not possible. However, these are usually administered by healthcare professionals.

Always refer to the manufacturer's instructions.

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Always refer to the manufacturer’s instructions.