

Medications: Crushing Medications PC.M35

Regulatory Citation(s): | None
L-Tag(s): | None

POLICY: When not contraindicated, solid medication may be crushed for patients who have difficulty swallowing.

PROCEDURE:

1. The hospice nurse reviews the patient’s medication profile to determine if it includes medications that may not be crushed, consulting the hospice’s updated listing of Do Not Crush Medications and the dispensing pharmacist as needed. The complete list of medications that cannot be crushed can be found online at:
<https://www.ismp.org/sites/default/files/attachments/2018-02/DoNotCrush.pdf>
2. Medications that may not be crushed include, but are not limited to, enteric coated tablets and timed-release capsules, long-acting medications or tablets and capsules intended for sublingual or buccal administration.
3. If crushing a medication is contraindicated, the hospice nurse consults with the hospice pharmacist to determine and provide alternatives.
4. The hospice nurse provides instruction to the patient/family regarding appropriate procedures for safely crushing medication, and the education is documented in the patient’s clinical record.

Created:	Reviewed:	Revised:	Effective:
9/18	2/19		4/2019
Reviewed:	Reviewed:	Reviewed:	Reviewed: