

## OVERVIEW OF THE SEVEN MEDICATION ROUTES FOR MAT CERTIFIED PROVIDERS

Route	Forms	Absorption	Special Information
<b>1. Oral</b> medication is given by mouth	Tablets: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• chewable</li> <li>• coated</li> <li>• uncoated</li> <li>• scored</li> </ul>	Starts working in about 30-60 minutes  This time can vary due to many factors including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• amount of food in stomach</li> <li>• activity level</li> <li>• coating on medicine</li> </ul>	Most tablets should be swallowed whole. <b>**Do not crush or have a child chew a tablet unless directed by physician.</b>
	Liquids		Scored tablets should be split by the parent. A pill cutter should be used if it becomes necessary to split a pill in half. Never use household utensils or items to cut a pill.
	Capsules		Liquids are most commonly given to children under five who cannot safely swallow pills.  <b>**Do not crush, chew or cut apart capsules unless directed by a health care provider.</b> Capsules must be swallowed whole unless otherwise instructed by the health care provider.
	Sprinkles		<b>**Do not crush, chew or cut apart capsules unless directed by a health care provider.</b> Capsules must be swallowed whole unless otherwise instructed by the health care provider.
	Sublingual	Speed of absorption varies by medication.	Sprinkles are the contents of a capsule. When directed by a health care provider, capsules can be opened and the contents sprinkled on food.
	Gum application (gels)	Rapid absorption; effects usually noted within 10 minutes	Sublingual medication is placed under the tongue or absorbed directly in the mouth. Some types of sublingual medication should not be swallowed whole. Refer to the manufacturer's instructions.
			This medication is rubbed directly on the gums inside the mouth. Medication that is applied to the lips, such as <u>lip balm</u> , is <u>not</u> considered oral medication because it is <u>not applied in the mouth or to the gums</u> .



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<b>2. Inhalants</b> are medications that are in a fine mist or powder which can be breathed into the body either through the nose or mouth	Nasal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sprays</li> <li>• Drops</li> </ul>	Medication is absorbed in the nasal cavity, effects noted within 10-15 minutes	Children may complain of an unpleasant taste in their mouth after receiving nasal medication.
	Oral: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Metered dose inhalers</li> <li>• Nebulizer treatments (Liquid medicine that has been converted by a compressor machine to a fine mist for inhalation.)</li> <li>• Dry powder inhalers</li> </ul>	Rapid absorption in the respiratory tract, effects noted within 10-15 minutes	Metered dose inhalers need to be used correctly to be effective.  Many children need to use a spacer device to help them use a metered dose inhaler correctly.
			Children under five usually use a nebulizer instead of an inhaler because the child does not need to use any special breathing techniques in order to get the medicine into the respiratory tract.
			Dry powder inhalers come in a pre-measured dose. Each click of the inhaler administers one dose of the medication. Diskus inhalers are one form of a dry powder inhaler.
<b>3. Topical</b> medications are applied to the skin.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creams</li> <li>• Lotions</li> <li>• Ointments</li> <li>• Gels</li> <li>• Aerosols</li> </ul>	Speed of absorption varies by medication.	Topical medication should be applied to dry, intact skin unless otherwise instructed.



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<p><b>4. Medicated Patches</b> are devices that are applied to and remain on the skin that allow for the timed release of medication.</p>		<p>Patches remain on the skin and allow small amounts of medication to be absorbed slowly, in a controlled manner, over a period of time.</p>	<p>Medicated patches for children are currently not common but advances in technology may allow for many medications to be administered to children using this route. May be referred to as transdermal patches.</p> <p>Band-Aids® are <u>not</u> considered medicated patches because they do not allow for slow controlled medication absorption over a period of time.</p>
<p><b>5. Eye</b> medication is any substance that is placed into the eye.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drops</li> <li>• Ointment</li> </ul>	<p>Rapid absorption in the eye.</p>	
<p><b>6. Ear</b> medication is any substance that is placed into the ear canal.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drops</li> </ul>	<p>Speed of absorption varies by medication.</p>	<p>Most ear medication is given to prevent or treat infections of the ear.</p>
<p><b>7. Epinephrine using an auto-injector device</b> for an anaphylactic reaction.</p>		<p>Rapid absorption into the bloodstream.</p>	<p>Child care providers may only administer epinephrine using an auto injector device to a child that has been prescribed the medication by a health care provider for the treatment of anaphylaxis.</p> <p>Children may appear better quickly, but still require emergency treatment and care once epinephrine is administered.</p>