

# TYPES OF MEDICATION

**MEDICATION** is the act or process of treating with medicine.

- **CAPSULE**

A small soluble container usually made of gelatin that encloses a dose of an oral medicine or a vitamin. The two main types of capsules are:

Hard-shelled capsules, which are normally used for dry, powdered ingredients or miniature pellets - or mini tablets.

Soft-shelled capsules, primarily used for oils and for active ingredients that are dissolved or suspended in oil.

## **TABLET**

A tablet is a pharmaceutical dosage form. It comprises a mixture of active substances and excipients, usually in powder form, pressed or compacted from a powder into a solid dose.

## **INJECTION**

An injection (often referred to as a "shot" in US English) is an infusion method of putting fluid into the body, usually with a hollow needle and a syringe which is pierced through the skin to a sufficient depth for the material to be forced into the body. It can be intramuscular, intravenous and intradermal route.

## **OINTMENT**

An ointment is a homogeneous, viscous, semi-solid preparation, most commonly a greasy, thick oil (oil 80% - water 20%) with a high viscosity, that is intended for external application to the skin or mucous membranes. They are used as emollients or for the application of active ingredients to the skin for protective, therapeutic, or prophylactic purposes and where a degree of occlusion is desired.

## **CREAM**

A cream is an emulsion of oil and water in approximately equal proportions. It penetrates the stratum corneum outer layer of skin well. Cream is thicker than lotion, and maintains its shape when removed from its container. It tends to be moderate in moisturizing tendency.

## **LOTION**

Lotions are similar to solutions but are thicker and tend to be more emollient in nature than solution. They are usually oil mixed with water, and more often than not have less alcohol than solutions. Lotions can be drying if they contain a high amount of alcohol.

## **POWDER**

A substance consisting of ground, pulverized, or otherwise finely dispersed solid particles. It is any of various cosmetic or medical preparations dispensed in the form of a pulverized powder. (E.g. elixir, the powder for drying wounds.

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## SOLUTION

A homogeneous mixture of two or more substances; frequently a liquid solution; (e.g. “he used a solution of peroxide and water in treating the wound”)

## SPRAY

It is used for delivering medication usually nasal. It is used to treat the symptoms of seasonal (occurs only at certain times of year), and perennial (occurs all year round) allergic rhinitis and perennial nonallergic rhinitis.

## INHALER

An **inhaler** or **puffer** is a medical device used for delivering medication into the body via the lungs. It is mainly used in the treatment of asthma and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD). Zanamivir (Relenza), used to treat influenza, must be administered via inhaler. (E.g. nebulization)

## SYRUP

Medicated syrups are aqueous solutions containing sugar and at least one water soluble active ingredient. The sugar is mainly used to:

- Preserve the finished product
- Aid in masking the unpleasant taste of the active ingredient(s)
- Enhance the flavour.

## SUPPOSITORY

A suppository is a drug delivery system that is inserted (rectal suppository), vagina (vaginal suppository) or urethra (urethral suppository), where it dissolves or melt. They are used to deliver both systemically-acting and locally-acting medications. The alternative term for delivery of medicine via such routes is pharmaceutical pessary. The general principle is that the suppository is inserted as a solid, and will dissolve or melt inside the body to deliver the medicine pseudo received by the many blood vessels that follow the larger intestine.

- Rectal suppositories  
Laxative purposes, with chemicals such as glycerin or bisacodyl  
Treatment of hemorrhoids by delivering a moisturizer or vasoconstrictor
- Vaginal suppositories are meant for introduction into the vagina. These are generally conical, rod shaped or wedge shaped and is larger than rectal suppositories. Commonly used for local actions in the treatment of gynecological ailments, including vaginal infections such as candidiasis.
- Urethral suppositories are used for the treatment of severe erectile dysfunction.