

Common Dosage Forms of Medications

- **Tablet**
 - Hard, compressed medication in round, oval, or square shape
 - Some have enteric coating or other types of coatings, which delay release of the drug and can not be crushed or chewed
- **Capsule**
 - In a gelatin container that may be hard or soft
 - Dissolves quickly in stomach
- **Liquid** – different types of liquid medications
 - Solution – a liquid containing dissolved medication
 - Suspension – a liquid holding undissolved particles of medication that must be shaken before measuring and administering to resident
 - Syrup – a liquid medication dissolved in a sugar water to disguise its taste
 - Elixir – a sweet alcohol based solution in which medications are dissolved
- **Suppository**
 - Small solid medicated substance, usually cone-shaped
 - Melts at body temperature
 - May be administered by rectum or vagina
 - Refrigerate as directed by manufacturer
- **Inhalant**
 - Medication carried into the respiratory tract using air, oxygen or steam
 - Inhalants may be used orally or nasally
- **Topical** – applied directly to the skin surface. Topical medications include the following:
 - Ointment – a semisolid substance for application of medication to the skin or eye
 - Lotion – a medication dissolved in liquid for applying to the skin
 - Paste – a semisolid substance thicker and stiffer than an ointment containing medications
 - Cream – semisolid preparation holding medication so it can be applied to skin
 - Shampoo – liquid containing medication that is applied to the scalp and hair
 - Patches (transdermal) – medication encased in a round, square, or oval disc that is affixed to the skin
 - Powder – fine, ground form of medication that may be used to be swallowed, or may be used on the skin for rashes
 - Aerosol sprays – solution that holds the medication suspended until it is dispensed in the form of a mist to spray on the skin