



Don't rush to crush!

Slow release medicines must never be crushed.



Crushing can increase the risk of drug toxicity.

If your patient has difficulty swallowing or has an enteral feeding tube in place, ask your pharmacist:

- can I crush it?
- can I dissolve or disperse it?
- can I open the capsule to crush contents?
- can I use a liquid formula alternative?
- can I give injection contents orally?

Abbreviations used for slow release products include:

Abbreviation	Meaning	Example
SR	Sustained/slow release	Veracaps SR (verapamil)
MR	Modified release	Diamicron MR (gliclazide)
LA	Long acting	Ritalin LA (methylphenidate)
XL	Extended release	Toprol XL (metoprolol)
XR	Extended release	Diabex XR (metformin)
ER	Extended release	Felodur ER (felodipine)
CR	Controlled release	Tegretol CR (carbamazepine)
CD	Controlled delivery	Cardizem CD (diltiazem)

Also do not crush **EC** (enteric coated), **HBS** (hydrodynamically balanced system) or **Contin** (continuous release) medications.

Where brand names do not include this information ask your pharmacist for advice.

For more information check SHPA Australian's *Don't Rush to Crush* book or the 'Crush' tab on eMIMS.