

Guidebook on

Enteral Medication Administration

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American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition



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Print ISBN: 978-1-889622-36-1

eBook ISBN: 978-1-889622-37-8

Suggested citation: Boullata JI. *Guidebook on Enteral Medication Administration*. Silver Spring, MD: American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition; 2019.

Printed in the United States.

Dedication

*To the mother who kept her son alive,
When others said he shouldn't survive*



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Preface

Far too often, the administration of an oral medication to a patient with an enteral feeding tube is an afterthought left to the discretion of the patient at home, a caregiver, or an inpatient nurse. At that point, the two basic options are either to improvise or to seek suggestions. With the former approach, the thought given to the preparation and administration methods is less than what is deserved for such complex pharmaceutical formulations. The potential for both obvious and unrecognized medication errors is always present. For the latter option, the person administering the medication may be guided, at best, by a knowledgeable pharmacist with a strong appreciation of clinical pharmaceuticals or, at worst, by someone whose advice lacks an adequate evidence base. In either case, until now, there has been no single reference source available that is dedicated to this clinically important topic.

The purpose of this *Guidebook on Enteral Medication Administration* is to pull together the available information from multiple disparate sources into one easily accessible resource. The result is a book that provides the requisite background as well as specific recommendations for individual medications. The first part of the book contains chapters covering enteral access devices, drug interactions with nutrition, foundational principles of drug solubility and bioavailability, and the most current recommendations for drug preparation and administration. The second part of the book contains individual drug monographs, which summarize pharmaceutical and pharmacokinetic data, review enteral administration and nutrition considerations, and conclude with specific recommendations on how to prepare and administer the drug. References to the relevant literature are included.

The book is intended for use by healthcare providers including pharmacists, nurses, dietitians, and physicians involved in managing patients

with an enteral access device, regardless of patient care setting. The book attempts to capture all the information that an individual provider may need—whether that is the simple recommendation at the end of a monograph, the available supporting data for that recommendation, or the foundational science that underpins the approach to enteral medication administration in general. For many years, the response by drug manufacturers to queries about how to prepare and administer a drug through an enteral feeding tube would be, “Why would you want to do that?” or “Our drug product is only approved for oral administration,” or “We cannot be liable for the product if you destroy it for an unapproved method of delivery.” As the industry has become more aware of the hundreds of thousands of patients requiring enteral medication administration, I expect that more information will be forthcoming.

This inaugural work has been limited to the most commonly prescribed oral drugs, to include most of the top 200 medications. Of note, the terms drug and medication are used interchangeably throughout this book. Additionally, this book is not intended to serve as an all-inclusive pharmacotherapeutic reflection of all populations (eg, pediatrics, geriatrics, pregnancy, lactation) or morbidities (eg, organ dysfunction, drug interactions). Within these limitations I hope that users will find this *Guidebook on Enteral Medication Administration* valuable as they provide the best care for their patients.

—JBoullata, PharmD (2018)

Acknowledgments

I would like to acknowledge a number of people without whom this work would not have been possible. My initial concept for the book was quickly appreciated by Peggi Guenter, PhD, RN, FAAN, FASPEN, who encouraged further development, including fruitful discussions with Jennifer Kuhn, MPS, former director of publications at the American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition (ASPEN), which eventually led to this interdisciplinary organization agreeing to serve as publisher of my *Guidebook*. The project has since been overseen by Catherine Wattenberg, director of publications at ASPEN, with the invaluable guidance of Elizabeth Nishiura, MA, who painstakingly copyedited all the work you find in these pages. I thank each of the authors who contributed a chapter and offer a special note of appreciation to Kayla Kotch, PharmD, who assisted with compiling some of the monographs, which included seeking input from manufacturers. My thanks also to the reviewers who took the time to provide constructive feedback on the content. Additional thanks to Lauren M. Hudson, MS, RD, LDN, my department director at the University of Pennsylvania Health System, for her support of the time and effort necessary to stay on top of this project. Thanks also to Stella L. Volpe, PhD, my department chair at Drexel University, Juan Muniz, PhD, and William Lane, RPh, for their support of my ongoing work in the pharmaceutical nutrition laboratory. Lastly, I would be remiss not to thank my loving wife, Laurel, who put up with many, many days and nights of me working on this project.

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