

Buccal Medication Administration

● SKILL SNAPSHOT**Purpose**

- Allows medication to dissolve between cheek and gum for absorption through oral mucosa, often avoiding first-pass metabolism.

When to use

- Medication is specifically ordered/formulated for buccal use and the oral mucosa is appropriate.

Supplies needed

- MAR/order; buccal tablet/film; gloves if handling mucosa; water for mouth rinse beforehand if allowed; timer.

● PREP + PATIENT SETUP

- Verify medication rights, allergies, dose, side/site rotation, food/fluid restrictions, and product instructions.
- Assess alertness, ability to follow directions, mouth moisture, sores, bleeding, dentures, and

● VAULT TIP

- Buccal means cheek-and-gum pocket. The medication stays still and dissolves; it is not swallowed like a tablet.

● STEP-BY-STEP

1. Hand hygiene; identify patient with two identifiers; compare medication with MAR/order.
2. Position patient upright. Provide oral care or a small water rinse before dosing if allowed; mouth should be moist, not full of food.
3. Apply gloves if direct mucosal contact is expected. Remove dentures if they obstruct the site.
4. Inspect inner cheek and gum. Choose an intact area without ulcers, inflammation, bleeding, or heavy secretions.
5. Remove medication from package only when ready; handle according to manufacturer instructions.
6. Place tablet or film between upper cheek and gum at the prescribed location. Do not place under tongue unless ordered sublingually.
7. Ask patient to close mouth gently and allow medication to dissolve completely.
8. Instruct patient not to chew, crush, move, suck, or swallow the dose and not to eat/drink until permitted.
9. Observe until medication is secure and the patient understands not to manipulate it.
10. For repeated doses, alternate sides or sites to reduce irritation when product guidance allows.
11. Reassess mucosa, pain, nausea, dizziness, sedation, and medication-specific therapeutic/adverse effects.
12. If swallowed, expelled, vomited, or not fully dissolved, do not automatically repeat the dose; assess and contact pharmacy/provider per policy.

● SAFETY REMINDERS

- Do not use in an unresponsive patient or one unable to protect the airway unless product/protocol specifically supports it.
- Never substitute buccal and sublingual routes.
- Keep potent products away from children and caregivers' skin.
- Do not redose automatically after an uncertain dose.

● COMMON MISTAKES

- Placing under tongue.
- Allowing chewing or swallowing.
- Using damaged mucosa.
- Giving food/drink too soon.

● DOCUMENTATION

- Medication, dose, buccal route, site/side, time.
- Oral mucosa assessment.
- Dissolution and patient tolerance.
- Therapeutic/adverse response.
- Teaching and incomplete-dose actions.