### Crushing Medications

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<th>Highlights</th>
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<td>Medications shall be crushed only when it is appropriate and safe to do so, consistent with physician orders.</td>
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#### Policy Interpretation and Implementation

1. The Medical Director and Director of Nursing Services, in conjunction with the Consultant Pharmacist, shall identify appropriate indications and procedures for crushing medications.

2. The nursing staff and/or Consultant Pharmacist shall notify any Attending Physician who gives an order to crush a drug that the manufacturer states should not be crushed (for example, long-acting or enteric coated medications). The Attending Physician or Consultant Pharmacist must identify an alternative or the Attending Physician must document (or provide the nurses with a clinically pertinent reason to document) why crushing the medication will not adversely affect the resident.

3. The following guidelines shall be followed when crushing a medication:
   a. The MAR or other documentation must indicate why it was necessary to crush the medication;
   b. Crush medications in paper cups or folded plastic sheets to prevent contact between the drug and the crushing device;
   c. Use only the mortar, pestle or garlic-press type crusher, or mechanized pill cursher in the drug preparation area to crush medications. If a paper cup is used, be sure that the paper cup is not ground into the medication;
   d. Should it become necessary to crush a drug without a cup or other protective device, thoroughly clean the cursher after each use; and
   e. Crushed medications should be administered with liquids or soft foods to ensure that the resident receives the entire dose ordered.

4. If a partial tablet is ordered, the nurse should break the tablet on the scored line. Hands must be cleaned before breaking the tablet. The other half tablet is to be discarded. (Note: The Vendor Pharmacist may be contacted to provide the half-tablet doses, thus eliminating the need for the nurse to split the tablets in half.)

5. The resident’s MAR in Point Click Care should clearly indicate that a partial tablet was administered.

#### References

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OBRA Regulatory Reference Numbers</th>
<th>483.25(m)(2)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Survey Tag Numbers</td>
<td>F333</td>
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<tr>
<td>Related Documents</td>
<td>Medication Crushing Guidelines (Appendix C)</td>
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**Policy Revised**

- Date: 7-13-2016 By:__________________
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