

Route of Administration

A route of administration for medicines is the path by which a particular drug is taken into or applied to the human body irrespective of its target of action. The standard routes that are listed in the reference table below provides a guidance when filling relevant fields in the drug evaluation check lists, adverse event reporting forms, and drug databases of the NMRA.

Route	Description	Possible Dosage forms
Buccal	Placed between the gums and the cheek	Buccal tablets
Cutaneous	Applied to the skin (e.g. Corticosteroids, Antifungals)	Ointments, Creams, Gels, Lotions,
Dental	Administered to a tooth or teeth	Dental pastes
Epidural	Injected into epidural space (e.g. epidural anaesthesia)	Epidural injections
Haemodialysis	Administration through haemodialysis fluid	Haemodialysis solutions
Implantation	Inserted under the skin (e.g. Hormonal contraception)	Implants
Inhalational	Breathed into respiratory tract through the mouth (e.g. Asthma medications)	Aerosolized drugs and powders in metered-dose containers, dry powder capsules
Intraarticular	Injected into a joint space (e.g. in osteoarthritis)	Intraarticular injections
Intraarterial	Injected into an artery (e.g. Vasodilators, Thrombolytic drugs)	Intraarterial injections
Intracavernous	Injection into the base of the penis)e.g. in Erectile dysfunction)	Intracavernous (Intracavernosal) injections
Intramuscular	Injected into a muscle (e.g. antibiotics, vaccines)	IM injections
Intraocular	Administered within the eye (e.g. in Glaucoma)	Intraocular injections
Intraperitoneal	Administration within the peritoneal cavity	Peritoneal dialysis solutions
Intrathecal	Injected into the space around the spinal cord (e.g. Spinal anaesthetics)	Spinal injections

Intrauterine	Administration within the uterus (e.g. for contraception, gynaecological disorders)	Drug eluting IUDs
Intravenous	Administered into a vein (e.g. IV fluids)	IV injections and infusions
Irrigation	Administration to bathe or flush, open wounds or body cavities (e.g. for irrigation of the eye)	Irrigation solutions
Nebulization	Breathed into respiratory tract through nose & mouth (e.g. Respiratory solutions)	Nebulization solutions
Nasal	Administered to the and by way of nose (e.g. decongestants, allergic rhinitis)	Nasal drops and sprays
Ocular	Administered to the conjunctiva (e.g. corticosteroids, anti-infective, anti-glaucoma)	Eye drops (Ophthalmic solutions), Eye ointments
Oral	Administered to the or by way of the mouth	Tablets, Capsules, Lozenges, Syrups, Oral solutions, Oral suspensions, Drops
Other	Administration is different from routes specified in this list	
Otic	Administered to or by way of the ear	Ear drops
Rectal	Administered into the rectum (e.g. Laxatives, antihemorrhoids)	Suppositories, Rectal solutions, Enemas, Gels
Subcutaneous	Injected into fatty tissue just beneath the skin (e.g. Insulin)	Subcutaneous injections
Sublingual	Placed under the tongue (e.g. Nitroglycerin)	Sublingual tablets
Transdermal	Delivered through skin by a patch (e.g. fentanyl, nitroglycerin)	Transdermal patches
Vaginal	Administered into the vagina (e.g. antifungal)	Pessaries, Vaginal tablets, Vaginal creams & Gels