

Orally Disintegrating Tablets (ODTs)

The SA Formulary Committee is implementing the use of Orally Disintegrating Tablets (ODTs) as a cost effective formulation suitable for many patients, including those who experience difficulties swallowing and those who can swallow conventional tablets.

Tablets are available in a number of forms: orally disintegrating (which includes wafers), chewable, dispersible, effervescent, film coated, enteric coated or modified release.

Where available on the SA Formulary, ODTs will be supplied in place of tablets and wafers on prescription orders.

- > Most ODTs disintegrate within a matter of seconds when placed on the tongue. However, some may take up to one minute to disintegrate.
- > Alternatively, **ODTs may be swallowed whole.**
- > Once disintegrated, an easy-to-swallow residue is left behind and the medication will be absorbed from the gastrointestinal tract.
- > ODTs are different to conventional sublingual and buccal tablets, which are absorbed directly through the oral mucosa.
- > ODTs should be removed from packaging immediately prior to use as they are sensitive to moisture and are **not** appropriate for placing into Dosage Administration Aids (e.g. Webster packs, dosette boxes).
- > Examples of ODTs supplied by SA Health include mirtazapine, ondansetron and risperidone.

For more information, contact:

Your hospital pharmacist

OR

SA Pharmacy Medicines Information Service
Adult (08) 8222 5546
Obstetric and Paediatric (08) 8161 7222



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