Off-label use of licensed medicine administered via enteral tube or involving formulation manipulation, i.e. crushing tablets or opening capsules.

† It is important to be clear about administration of medicines by enteral tube to avoid misunderstandings around covert administrations of medicines, particularly if the patient has no capacity to understand or consent.

Patient discharged with enteral tube

- Code patient as having enteral tube feeding
- Check discharge letter provides essential information (see Box 3) and contact discharging hospital if not

Can they still swallow medicines?

- No
- Perform medication review

Can they still swallow medicines? (Continued)

- No
- Medicine discontinued
- Yes

Is there a formulation licensed for tube administration?

- No
- Medicine continued
- Yes

Is there a licensed alternative? (e.g. alternative drug group or route of administration)

- No
- Off-label or unlicensed use*
- Yes

Off-label or unlicensed use*

- Is there evidence for safety?

- Yes
- Is there a better alternative? (e.g. more experience, avoid manipulation, dosing frequency—see ‘Useful resources’)

- Yes
- Change drug
- No

- No

Consult patient/carer (or ‘best interests’ meeting) about prescribing decision if choices available†

Develop medications administration plan in consultation with home enteral nutrition team

Review at agreed time period, e.g. 3 months

Licensed medicines
*Follow manufacturer instructions