

## Overview of the Medication Routes Covered in the MAT Course



Route	Forms of the medication	How fast does the medication start working?
<p><b>1. Topical</b> medication is put on the skin.</p>	<p>Medication put on the skin can be a:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• cream</li> <li>• lotion</li> <li>• ointment</li> <li>• gel</li> <li>• aerosol</li> </ul>	<p>Depends on the medication</p>
<p><b>2. Oral</b> medication is given by mouth.</p>	<p>Medication taken by mouth can come in many forms, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• tablets</li> <li>• capsules</li> <li>• liquids</li> </ul>	<p>Usually starts working in about 30-60 minutes.</p> <p>Some things that can affect how fast the medication starts working:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amount of food in stomach</li> <li>• Activity level</li> <li>• If the medication has a coating on it</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• sprinkles (small granules that can be sprinkled onto food or onto the tongue). Sprinkles can come in small packets or in capsules that can be opened and poured out.</li> <li>• dissolving strips/melts (medication that is placed on the tongue or in the mouth, where it dissolves)</li> <li>• sublingual medication (medication that is placed under the tongue, where it dissolves)</li> <li>• gels that are rubbed into the gums or inside the mouth</li> </ul>	<p>Rapid absorption; effects usually noted within 10 minutes.</p>

Route	Forms of the medication	How fast does the medication start working?
<p><b>3. Inhaled</b> medication is breathed in through the nose or mouth.</p>	<p>Medication breathed in through the nose can be given by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• spray</li> <li>• drop</li> </ul>	<p>Usually starts working in about 10 to 15 minutes</p>
	<p>Medication breathed in through the mouth can be given by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• inhaler, such as metered-dose inhaler or dry powder inhaler</li> <li>• nebulizer, a machine that changes liquid medication into a mist that can be breathed in</li> </ul>	<p>Usually starts working in about 5 to 15 minutes</p>
<p><b>4. Medicated patches</b> are patches with medication in them that are put on the skin and kept on the skin for a period of time.</p>	<p>Medication comes in the form of a patch.</p>	<p>Small amounts of medication are absorbed slowly, in a controlled manner, over a period of time.</p>
<p><b>5. Eye</b> medication is placed into the eye.</p>	<p>Medication put into the eye can be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• drop</li> <li>• ointment</li> </ul>	<p>Usually right away</p>
<p><b>6. Ear</b> medication is placed into the ear.</p>	<p>Medication comes in a liquid to be dropped into the ear.</p>	<p>Depends on the medication</p>
<p><b>7. Auto-injector</b> for giving the medication epinephrine to a child having a serious allergic reaction.</p>	<p>This medication, epinephrine, comes in an auto-injector device that allows you to put a pre-measured amount of the medication into the body through the skin using a needle.</p>	<p>Usually right away</p>