

**ADMINISTERING SUBLINGUAL AND BUCCAL MEDICATIONS**

- I. Sublingual and Buccal Medications
  - A. This route is used when rapid action is desired, or when a drug is specifically designed to be easily absorbed into blood vessels under the tongue (sublingual) or between the cheek and gums (buccal), such as Nitroglycerine, Isordil, etc. The tablets are completely soluble. They cannot be swallowed to obtain the same rapid effect.
  - B. For sublingual, instruct the resident to hold the tablet under his/her tongue until it's completely absorbed. Tell the resident not to move the tablet with the tongue to other parts of the mouth.
  - C. For buccal, be sure the tablet is placed between the cheek and gums, ask the resident to close mouth, and hold the tablet there until it's absorbed.
  - D. For both, remember to tell the resident not to drink water or swallow excessively until the tablet is completely absorbed.