

## KeyPoints

### Advantages and disadvantages of unit dose powders as dosage forms

#### Advantages

- More stable than liquid dosage forms
- Accurate dosing
- Easy to administer
- Small particle size of drug
- Acceptable to patients

#### Disadvantages

- May be difficult to swallow
- Hard to mask unpleasant flavours

## KeyPoints

### Advantages and disadvantages of unit dose capsules as dosage forms

#### Advantages

- More stable than liquid dosage forms
- Accurate dosing
- Easy to administer
- Unpleasant tastes easily masked
- Release characteristics can be controlled
- Can be made light-resistant
- Small particle size of drug
- Acceptable to patients

#### Disadvantages

- May be difficult to swallow
- Unsuitable for very small children
- Possible patient objections to the use of animal gelatin

4. Mix well with pestle.
5. Continue adding an amount of powder B that is approximately the same as that in the mortar and mix with the pestle, i.e. doubling the amount of powder in the mortar at each addition.
6. If further powders are to be added, add these in increasing order of volume as in parts 3, 4 and 5 above.

### General method for producing unit dose powders

1. Remember, for ease of handling the minimum weight of powder in a unit dose paper is 200 mg.
2. Calculate to make an excess of the number of powders requested.
3. Determine whether a single or double dilution of the active ingredient is required.
4. Mix the active ingredient and the diluent (Lactose BP unless there is a reason not to use it, for example, if the patient is intolerant to lactose or due to instability of the ingredients) in a mortar using the 'doubling-up' technique.
5. Work on a clean dry glass tile. Select a suitable size of paper (e.g. 10 × 10 cm), turn in one edge and fold down approximately 1.25 cm. Repeat for the required number of powders.
6. Place the paper on the glass tile, with the folded edge away from the compounder, and each edge slightly overlapping, next to the balance pan to be used for weighing.
7. Weigh out the individual powder from the bulk powder, and transfer to the centre of the paper (if placed too near the fold, the powder will fall out during opening).
8. Fold the bottom of the powder paper up to, and underneath, the flap folded originally.