TABLETS

**Compressed tablets**

Compressed tablets are formed by compression of powdered, crystalline, or granular materials into the required geometry by the application of high pressures, utilizing punches and die. In addition to the Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient(s) (APIs), compressed tablets usually contain a number of pharmaceutical excipients e.g., bulking agents, disintegrants, binders, lubricants etc. These tablets are designed to provide rapid disintegration in the gastric fluid following ingestion. Examples: oral, sublingual tablets.

### Multiple Compressed Tablets/ Multi-compressed Tablets

Multiple compressed tablets, also called multi-compressed tablets are tablets that are composed of two or more layers. These tablets are prepared by subjecting the fill material to more than one compression cycle. They may be multiple-layer tablet or a tablet within a tablet. This process is best used when separation of active ingredients is needed for stability purposes.

Layered tablets are prepared by compressing additional tablet granulation on a previously compressed granulation to form two-layered or three-layered tablets, depending on the number of separate fills. Each layer may contain a different medicinal agent, separated for reasons of physical or chemical incompatibility, staged drug release, or simply the unique appearance of the layered tablet.

Compression coated tablets also referred to as dry-coated tablets or press-coated tablets, are tablets with two parts; internal core and surrounding coat. These tablets are prepared by feeding previously compressed tablets into a special tablet press (e.g., Manesty Drycota) and compressing another granulation layer around a preformed tablet core. These tablets can also be used to separate incompatible drug substances (one in the core and the other in the coat); in addition, they can provide a means of giving an enteric coating to the core tablets.

### Sugar-coated Tablets

These are compressed tablets that have been coated with concentrated sugar solution to improve patient’s compliance, increase aesthetic appeal, mask objectionable tastes or odours, increase stability and/or modify the release of therapeutic agent(s). Sugar coating was once quite common but lost commercial appeal due to the time and expertise required in the coating process, the increase in size and weight of coated tablets, high cost of process validation and shipping.

Examples of sugar-coated tablets include Reasulf tablets – dried ferrous sulphate BP 200mg (Reagan Remedies Ltd.), Advil – Ibuprofen tablet BP 200mg (Pfizer Consumer Healthcare), Ebu-200 – Ibuprofen tablet BP 200mg (Me cure Industries Ltd) etc.

### Film-Coated Tablets