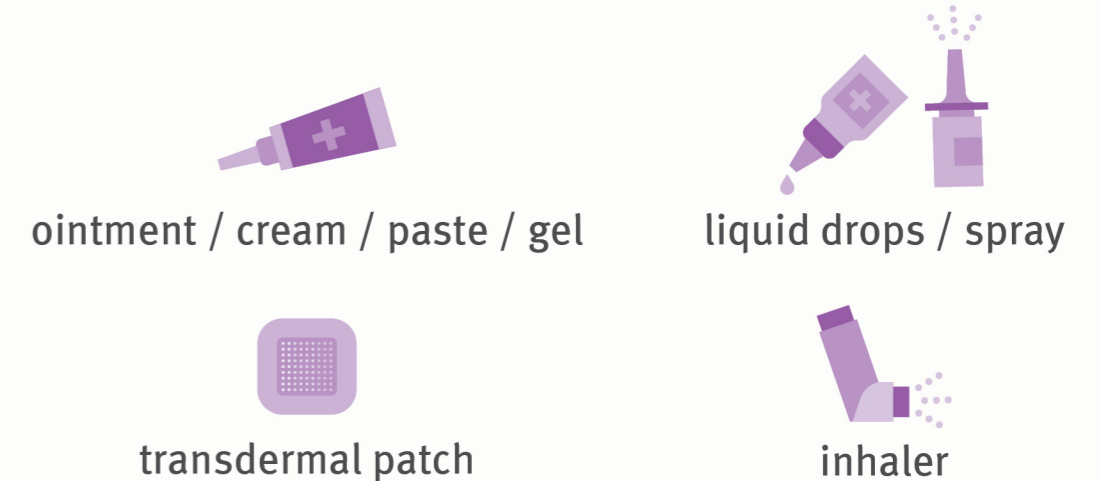
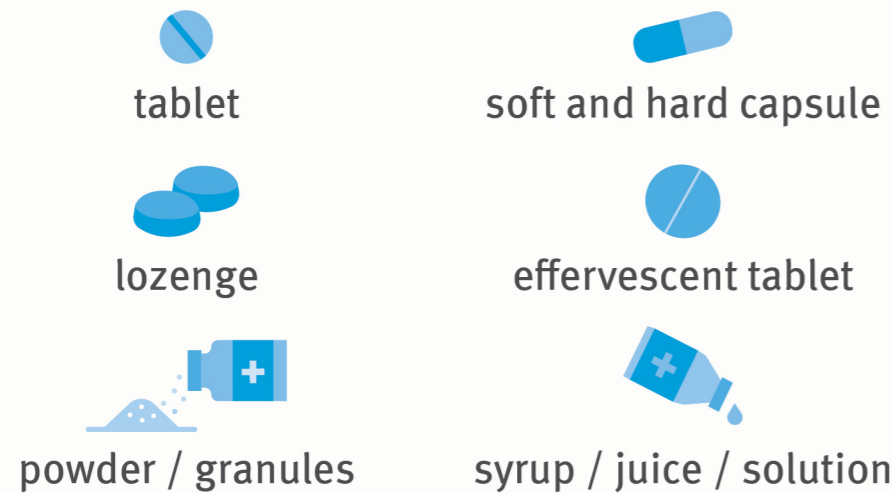


# Environmental aspects of different methods of administration of pharmaceuticals

Doctors and pharmacists can take environmental aspects into account when prescribing or recommending the method of administration of a pharmaceutical. The methods of administration and their different dosages influence how much pharmaceutical substances are released into the environment.

METHOD OF ADMINISTRATION	oral	parenteral	local
ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⊖ in some cases higher dosages are required compared to parenteral forms</li> <li>⊕ active substances are partially metabolised</li> <li>⊖ residues of liquid medicines are often disposed of incorrectly</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⊕ lower dosage possible for infusions and injections</li> <li>⊕ active substances are partially metabolised</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⊖ sometimes higher dosages are required compared to oral and parenteral forms</li> <li>⊖ active substances from ointments etc. are partly released unchanged in large quantities into the environment</li> <li>⊕ instructions for use can minimise discharge into the environment*</li> <li>⊖ greenhouse gases in inhalers with high global warming potential</li> </ul>



\* After applying ointments etc., hands should first be wiped with a paper towel before being washed. The paper towel should be disposed of in the domestic waste.