

Table 13.6 EXAMPLES OF NONMEDICATED SYRUPS (VEHICLES)

SYRUP	COMMENTS
Cherry syrup	Sucrose-based syrup with cherry juice about 47% by volume. Tart fruit flavor is attractive to most patients, and acidic pH makes it useful as a vehicle for drugs requiring an acid medium.
Cocoa syrup	Suspension of cocoa powder in aqueous vehicle sweetened and thickened with sucrose, liquid glucose, glycerin; flavored with vanilla, sodium chloride. Particularly effective in administering bitter-tasting drugs to children
Orange syrup	Sucrose-based syrup uses sweet orange peel tincture, citric acid as the source of flavor and tartness. Resembles orange juice in taste; good vehicle for drugs stable in acidic medium
Ora-Sweet, Ora-Sweet SF	Commercial vehicles for extemporaneous compounding of (Paddock Laboratories) syrups. Both have a pH of 4–4.5 and are alcohol-free. Ora-Sweet SF is sugar-free.
Ora-Blend	A preblended combination of Ora-Sweet and Ora-Plus (1:1) and Ora-Sweet SF and Ora-Plus (1:1)
PCCA Acacia Syrup	A sweet, demulcent suspending vehicle with a mild vanilla flavor
PCCA-Plus Oral Suspending Vehicle	A preserved, buffered vehicle with demulcent qualities
PCCA Sweet SF	A sugar-free syrup containing sorbitol and can be used in diabetic patients as well as others
PCCA Syrup	A syrup vehicle with less sucrose than Syrup NF
Raspberry syrup	Sucrose-based syrup with raspberry juice about 48% by volume. Pleasant-flavored vehicle to disguise salty or sour taste of saline medicaments
SyrSpend™ SF Suspension Vehicle	A low osmolality suspending vehicle using modified starch technology. It is buffered at pH 4.2; it is sugar-free and paraben-free; it is available in unflavored, cherry, and grape formulations.
SyrSpend™ SF Alka	An alkaline suspension vehicle with a pH of about 7.0, when reconstituted as directed. It is low osmolality (<50 mOsmol), pleasant-tasting, sugar-free, alkaline medium available in unflavored and cherry formulas
Syrup	85% sucrose in purified water. Simple syrup may be used as the basis for flavored or medicated syrups.

administration of drugs to youngsters, since their pleasant taste usually dissipates any reluctance on the part of the child to take the medicine. The fact that syrups contain little or no alcohol adds to their favor among parents.

Any water-soluble drug that is stable in aqueous solution may be added to a flavored syrup. However, care must be exercised to ensure compatibility between the drug substance and the other formulative components of the syrup. Also, certain flavored syrups have an acidic medium, whereas others may be neutral or slightly basic, and the proper selection must be made to ensure the stability of any added medicinal agent. Perhaps

the most frequently found types of medications administered as medicated syrups are antitussive agents and antihistamines. This is not to imply that other types of drugs are not formulated into syrups; a variety of medicinal substances can be found in syrup form and among the many commercial products. Examples of medicated syrups are presented in Table 13.7.

Components of Syrups

Most syrups contain the following components in addition to the purified water and any medicinal agents present: (a) the sugar,