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Coating Excipient

National Cancer Institute

Source

National Cancer Institute. *Coating Excipient*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C42663.

Therapeutically inactive ingredient of pharmaceutical dosage form used to protect it against premature physical breakup and to prevent unwanted environmental interactions. Coating can mask bad taste and allow pills to be swallowed easily. Several types of coatings are used: thin film, sugar coating, enteric coating (the most unpredictable because such coated tablets may pass through the stomach intact and be released into the intestine at unpredictable intervals all at one time rather than slowly over a period of time. Typical pill coatings include zein, shellac, or sugars.