Claims:

1. A solid dispersion of rifaximin comprising rifaximin and pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein said carrier is selected from urea, sugar, organic acids, polyethylene glycol, povidone, copovidone, polymethacrylates, polyvinyl acetate, cellulose derivatives, self emulsifying carriers, poloxamer, glyceryl behenate, polyethyleneglycol derivative of a mono-glyceride, vitamin E, polyethylene or polyoxyethylene ester of hydroxyl stearic acid, polyoxylglycerides, polyethoxylated castor oil or combinations thereof, wherein the solid dispersion of rifaximin comprises rifaximin from 0.1% to 90% by weight of the total weight of solid dispersion.

2. A solid dispersion of claim 1, wherein the solubility of rifaximin is increased relative to an equivalent amount of rifaximin not in solid dispersion, without an increase in systemic absorption of rifaximin.

3. A solid dispersion of claim 1, wherein the solubility of rifaximin is increased by more than 30%.

4. A solid dispersion of claim 1, wherein the gastrointestinal availability of rifaximin is increased relative to an equivalent amount of rifaximin not in the form of a solid dispersion.

5. A solid dispersion of rifaximin wherein the solubility of rifaximin in the solid dispersion is increased relative to an equivalent dose of rifaximin not in the form of a solid dispersion in a commercially available tablet, while maintaining equivalent permeability relative to an equivalent dose of rifaximin.

6. A pharmaceutical composition comprising solid dispersion of claim 1.

7. Use of a solid dispersion of rifaximin of claim 1 for the manufacture of a medicament for treating and/or preventing a microbial infection, comprising providing to a patient in need a therapeutically effective amount thereof.

8. A solid dispersion of rifaximin comprising rifaximin and pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier comprises polaxamer and povidone.

9. The solid dispersion of claim 8, wherein the rifaximin, polaxamer and povidone are in a 1:1:2 ratio.

10. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 6, wherein the composition comprises a tablet.

11. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 10, wherein the tablet is one or more of immediate release and modified release.

12. A solid dispersion of rifaximin comprising rifaximin and pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier comprises copovidone and polyethylene glycol.

13. A solid dispersion of rifaximin comprising rifaximin and pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier comprises povidone and polyethylene glycol.

14. A solid dispersion of rifaximin comprising rifaximin and pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier comprises povidone and tween 80.

15. A solid dispersion of rifaximin comprising rifaximin and pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier comprises povidone and span20.