CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An article configured for release of a therapeutic agent in a colon of a subject, comprising:

a first portion comprising a secretion inducing agent;

a second portion adjacent the first portion, the second portion comprising a therapeutic agent; and

a degradable coating associated with the article.

2. An article configured for release of a therapeutic agent in a portion of an intestine of a subject, comprising:

a first component configured to increase the amount of intestinal fluid present in the intestine of the subject; and

a second component associated with the first component configured to release a therapeutic agent in the intestine of the subject.

3. An article of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the portion of the intestine is the colon of the subject.

4. An article of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the secretion inducing agent is configured to increase the water content in the colon of the subject.

5. An article of any one of the preceding claims in the manufacture of a medicament for treating gastrointestinal disease.

6. An article of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the secretion inducing agent is a bile acid or a salt thereof.

7. An article of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the secretion inducing agent is chenodeoxycholic acid or a salt thereof.

8. An article of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the degradable coating comprises Eudragit S100, Phloral, HPMC or duocaot.

9. An article of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the local concentration of the secretion inducing agent is at least 3 mM.

10. An article as in any preceding claim, wherein the local concentration of the secretion inducing agent is at least 5 mM.

11. An article as in any preceding claim, wherein the article further comprises hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose.

12. An article as in any preceding claim, wherein the article further comprises magnesium stearate.

13. A method of intestinal drug delivery, comprising:

exposing a portion of an intestine of a subject to an intestinal secretion inducing agent such that the intestine is induced to release intestinal fluids; and

providing a therapeutic agent to a portion of a intestine of the subject,

wherein the secretion inducing agent increases the amount of the therapeutic agent available for absorption by the intestine of the subject.

14. A method for administering a therapeutic agent, comprising:

administering, to a subject, an article, the article comprising a first portion comprising a secretion inducing agent, a second portion adjacent the first portion, the second portion comprising the therapeutic agent, and a degradable coating associated with the article,

wherein the secretion inducing agent is configured to increase an amount of intestinal fluid present in an intestine of the subject; and

releasing the therapeutic agent from article to the intestine of the subject.

15. A method as in any one of the preceding claims, wherein secretion inducing agent is a bile acid or a salt thereof.

16. A method as in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the secretion inducing agent is chendeoxycholic acid or a salt thereof.

17. A method as in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the secretion inducing agent is configured to fully dissolve within one-fifth of the distance between the ileocecal valve and the hepatic flexure.

18. A method as in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the local concentration of the secretion inducing agent is at least 3 mM.

19. A method as in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the local concentration of the secretion inducing agent is at least 5 mM.

20. A method as in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the secretion inducing agent and the therapeutic agent are introduced orally via a tablet, a pill, or a capsule comprising the secretion inducing agent and the therapeutic agent.

21. A method as in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the secretion inducing agent does not induce abdominal pain in the subject.

22. An article as in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the secretion inducing agent is configured to increase the motility of the gastrointestinal tract of the subject.

23. An article as in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the secretion inducing agent is a bile acid or a salt thereof, and the therapeutic agent is a bile acid or a salt thereof.

24. An article as in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the section inducing agent is chenodeoxycholic acid or a salt thereof, and the therapeutic agent is a bile acid or salts thereof.

25. An article as in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the amount of the secretion-inducing agent is greater than or equal to 5 mg and less than or equal to 5 g.

26. An article as in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the amount of the therapeutic agent present in the article is greater than or equal to 10 mg and less than or equal to 10 g.

27. An article as in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the wt% of the secretion-inducing agent relative to the total weight of the article is greater than or equal to 10 wt% and less than or equal to 95 wt%.

28. An article as in any one of the preceding claims, wherein a wt% of the therapeutic agent relative to the total weight of the article is greater than or equal to 10 wt% and less than or equal to 95 wt%.

29. An article or method as in any one of the preceding claims, wherein a ratio of the first portion and the second portion is greater than or equal to 1:1 and less than or equal to 1:99.

30. An article or method as in any one of the preceding claims, wherein a ratio of the second portion and the first portion is greater than or equal to 1:1 and less than or equal to 99:1.

31. An article or method as in any one of preceding claims, wherein a mass ratio of the secretion-inducing agent to the therapeutic agent is greater than or equal to 10:90 and less than or equal to 90:10.