



Appendix A: Medications Used in Palliative Care for Constipation

Tailor dose to each patient; those who are elderly, cachectic, debilitated or with renal or hepatic dysfunction may require reduced dosages; consult most current product monograph for this information: <http://www.bc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/prodpharma/databasdon/index-eng.php>

LAXATIVES ^A						
Generic Name	Trade Name	Available Dosage Forms	Standard Adult Dose	Drug Plan Coverage ^B		Approx. cost per 30 days ^C
				Palliative Care	Fair PharmaCare	
bisacodyl	Dulcolax [®] , G	Tabs: 5 mg	5 to 10 mg PO x 1 dose	Yes, LCA	No	\$1 (G) \$6 per 30 days
		Supp: 10 mg	10 mg PR x 1 dose			\$0.51 (G) per supp
sennosides	Senokot [®] , G	Tabs: 8.6, 12 mg	2 tabs PO at bedtime to 3 tabs tid	Yes, LCA	No	\$3–20 (G) \$6–40 per 30 days
		Oral syrup: 8.8 mg per 5 mL	10 mL PO at bedtime to 15 mL tid			\$14–72 per 30 days
glycerin supp^D	G	Supp: 2.65 g	1 supp PR x 1 dose	Yes	No	\$0.25 (G) per supp
lactulose	G	Oral solution: 667 mg per mL	15 mL PO daily to 30 mL PO bid	Yes, LCA	Special Authority, LCA	\$7–28 (G) per 30 days
polyethylene glycol 3350 (PEG)^D	Lax-A-Day [®] , Pegalax [®] , RestoraLAX [®] , G	Powder: 17g sachets	17 grams in 250 mL fluid PO daily	No	No	\$20–25 per 30 days
sorbitol^D	G	Oral solution: 70%	15 to 45 mL PO daily to qid	No	No	\$10–136 (G) per 30 days
glycerin-sodium citrate-sodium lauryl sulfoacetate- sorbic acid-sorbitol^D	MicroLax [®]	Micro-enema: 5 mL	5 mL PR x 1 to 2 doses	Yes	No	\$1.80 per micro-enema
phosphates enema^{D,E}	Fleet enema [®] , G	Enema: 22 g per 100 mL	120 mL PR x 1 dose	Yes	No	\$6 per enema
mineral oil enema^D	Fleet Enema Mineral Oil [®]	Enema: 130 mL	120 mL PR x 1 dose	Yes	No	\$8 per enema
methylnaltrexone^D	Relistor [®]	Inj: 12 mg per 0.6 mL	8 to 12 mg SC every 2 days	No	No	\$616 per 30 days
naloxegol	Movantik [®]	Tabs: 12.5, 25 mg	25 mg PO once daily	No	No	\$193 per 30 days

Abbreviations: G generics; LCA subject to Low Cost Alternative Program; PO by mouth; PR per rectum; SC subcutaneous; Supp suppositories (rectal); tabs tablet

^A Refer to guideline and/or algorithm for recommended order of use.

^B PharmaCare coverage as of October 2016 (subject to revision). Obtain current coverage, eligibility, and coverage information from the online BC PharmaCare Formulary Search page at pharmacareformularysearch.gov.bc.ca

^C Cost as of October 2016 and does not include retail markups or pharmacy fees. Generic and brand name cost separated as indicated by (G).

^D Cancer, gastrointestinal malignancy, gastrointestinal ulcer, Ogilvie's syndrome and concomitant use of certain medications (e.g., NSAIDs, steroids and bevacizumab) may increase the risk of GI perforation in patients receiving methylnaltrexone. [Health Canada MedEffect Notice: <http://www.healthycanadians.gc.ca/recall-alert-rappel-avis/hc-sc/2010/14087a-eng.php>]

^E Contraindicated in patients with renal failure