

## Appendix B: Medications<sup>a</sup> Used in Palliative Care for Constipation

<sup>a</sup>Refer to guideline and/or algorithm for recommended order of use.

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://webprod.hc-sc.gc.ca/dpd-bdpp/index-eng.jsp>

LAXATIVES						
Generic Name	Trade Name	Available Dosage Forms	Standard Adult Dose	Drug Plan Coverage <sup>A</sup>		Approx. cost
				Palliative Care	Fair PharmaCare	
bisacodyl	Dulcolax <sup>®</sup> , G	<b>Tabs:</b> 5 mg	5 to 10 mg PO x 1 dose	Yes, LCA	No	\$0.05 (G) \$0.21 per tab
		<b>Supps:</b> 10 mg	10 mg PR x 1 dose			\$0.51 (G) per supp
glycerin supp	G	<b>Supps:</b> 2.65 g	1 supp PR x 1 dose	Yes	No	\$0.25 (G) <sup>B</sup> per supp
glycerin-sodium citrate-sodium lauryl sulfoacetate-sorbic acid-sorbitol	Microlax <sup>®</sup>	<b>Micro-enema:</b> 5 mL	5 mL PR x 1 to 2 doses	Yes	No	\$1.80 <sup>B</sup> per micro-enema
lactulose	G	<b>Oral solution:</b> 667 mg per mL	15 mL PO daily to 30 mL PO bid	Yes, LCA	Special Authority, LCA	\$7-28 (G) per 30 days
methylnaltrexone <sup>C</sup>	Relistor <sup>®</sup>	<b>Inj:</b> 12 mg per 0.6 mL	8 to 12 mg SC every 2 days	No	No	\$616 per 30 days
mineral oil enema	Fleet enema mineral oil <sup>®</sup>	<b>Enema:</b> 130 mL	120 mL PR x 1 dose	Yes	No	\$8 <sup>B</sup> per enema
phosphates enema <sup>D</sup>	Fleet enema <sup>®</sup> , G	<b>Enema:</b> 22 g per 100 mL	120 mL PR x 1 dose	Yes	No	\$6 <sup>B</sup> (G) \$8 <sup>B</sup> per enema
polyethylene glycol 3350 (PEG)	Lax-A-Day <sup>®</sup> , Pegalax <sup>™</sup> , RestoraLAX <sup>™</sup> , G	<b>Powder:</b> 17g sachets	17 grams in 250 mL fluid PO daily	No	No	\$27-51 <sup>B</sup> per 30 days
sennosides	Senokot <sup>®</sup> , G	<b>Tabs:</b> 8.6, 12 mg	2 tabs PO at bedtime to 3 tabs tid	Yes, LCA	No	\$3-14 (G) \$10-47 per 30 days
		<b>Oral syrup:</b> 8.8 mg per 5 mL	10 mL PO at bedtime to 15 mL tid			\$14-86 per 30 days
sorbitol	G	<b>Oral solution:</b> 70%	15 to 45 mL PO daily to qid	No	No	\$10-119 <sup>B</sup> (G) per 30 days

Abbreviations: **G** generics ; **LCA** subject to low cost alternative program; **PO** by mouth; **PR** per rectum; **SC** subcutaneous; **supps** suppositories (rectal); **tabs** tablets

<sup>A</sup> PharmaCare coverage and cost as of November 2010 (subject to revision). Cost does not include dispensing fee. Generic and brand name cost separated, as indicated by (G). Obtain coverage, eligibility, medication coverage information and explanations here: Information on Provincial Drug Coverage

<sup>B</sup> Approximate retail cost (without prescription)

<sup>C</sup> 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: [www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/alt\\_formats/pdf/medeff/advisories-avis/prof/2010/relistor\\_hpc-cps-eng.pdf](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/alt_formats/pdf/medeff/advisories-avis/prof/2010/relistor_hpc-cps-eng.pdf)]

<sup>D</sup> contraindicated in patients with renal failure

### References

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