

PICU BOWEL PROTOCOL

Patient <2 years of age

Patient has no stool production within 48 hours of commencing feeds.

Prescribe and administer: Poloxamer (stool softener) and Lactulose (osmotic laxative)

Coloxyl[®] paediatric drops 10%

- children under 6 months: 0.5 ml 3 times daily
- children 6-18 months: 0.75 ml 3 times daily
- children 18-24 months: 1.25ml 3 times daily

Lactulose

- children < 1 year 2.5 ml twice daily
- children 1-2 year 5 ml twice daily

Patient has no stool production within the next 48 hours (continue Coloxyl[®] drops *and* lactulose)

Prescribe and administer:

- Movicol[®] / Lax-Sachets/Molaxole[®] (osmotic laxative) [max 2 doses]
¼ to ½ sachet daily.

One sachet is dissolved in 125ml of water. Do not alter volume as action dependent on osmotic concentration.

May be contraindicated for patients with cardiovascular or renal impairment [extreme fluid restriction]

Use alternative: Bisacodyl 5mg suppository (stimulant laxative)

Patient has no stool production within the next 24 hours (continue Coloxyl[®] drops *and* lactulose)

Prescribe and administer:

1 Microlax[®] /Microlette[®] enema (stimulant laxative). NB insert only ½ the nozzle length.

Patient has no stool within the next 12 hours (continue Coloxyl[®] drops *and* lactulose)

Prescribe and administer:

1/3 Fleet[®] phosphate enema (osmotic laxative) [Caution with renal failure/hyperphosphataemia discuss with consultant]

- Once regular bowel habit achieved, continue with Coloxyl[®] drops and lactulose
- If diarrhoea (more than 6 liquid stools in 24 hours) occurs reassess.
- If feeding intolerance occurs reassess.
- Lax-Sachets & Molaxole are equivalent to Movicol[®]. Dosing is based on adult sachet (only preparation available in NZ).

Do not routinely administer any laxatives to patients with potential intestinal obstruction or following lower bowel surgery.

Patients on opiates especially if also cooled and receiving muscle relaxants may require intensive bowel management.

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References: Various data sheets. <http://www.medsafe.govt.nz>

Patient >2 years of age

Patient has no stool production within 48 hours of commencing feeds.

Prescribe and administer: Laxsol® (stool softener + stimulant) and lactulose (osmotic laxative)
Laxsol® tablets (docusate 50mg + sennosides 8mg) (can be crushed for NG administration)

- children 2 – 6 years: 1 tablet daily
- children 6-12 years: 2 tablets daily
- children > 12 years: 2 to 4 tablets daily or 2 tablets twice daily

Lactulose

- children 2-5 year 5 ml twice daily
- children 5-10 year 10 ml twice daily
- children > 10 year 20ml twice daily

Patient has no stool production within the next 48 hours

Change prescription to: Movicol® / Lax-Sachets/Molaxole® (osmotic laxative) sachets.

- children 2 -6 years: ½ to 1 sachet daily
- children 6-12 years: 1 to 2 sachets daily.
- children > 12 years: 1 to 3 sachets daily.

One sachet is dissolved in 125ml of water. Do not alter volume as action dependent on osmotic concentration. May be contraindicated for patients with cardiovascular or renal impairment [extreme fluid restriction]

OR

Prescribe and administer bisacodyl (stimulant laxative) when Movicol® / Lax-Sachets contraindicated.

- children <12 5–10mg bisacodyl EC tablets or 5-10mg bisacodyl suppository daily
- children >12 10–15mg bisacodyl EC tablets or 10-20mg bisacodyl suppository daily

Patient has no stool production within the next 24 hours (continue Lax-Sachets or Laxsol® and Lactulose).

Prescribe and administer:

- Fleet® glycerine suppository 2.55g OR 1 Microlax® enema

Patient has no stool production within the next 12 hours (continue Lax-Sachets or Laxsol® and Lactulose)

Prescribe and administer:

- children 2-12years: ½ Fleet® phosphate enema (osmotic laxative)
- children > 12years: 1 Fleet® phosphate enema (osmotic laxative) OR Fleet® phospho-soda buffered saline solution 10-20ml (laxative) or 45ml (purgative) – for adolescents only, consult prescribing information.
[Caution with renal failure/hyperphosphataemia, discuss with consultant]

- Once regular bowel habit achieved, continue with Laxsol® and lactulose
- If diarrhoea (more than 6 liquid stools in 24 hours) or feeding intolerance occurs reassess.
- Lax-Sachets & Molaxole are equivalent to Movicol®. Dosing is based on adult sachet (only preparation available in NZ).
- Refer to Starship Constipation Clinical Guideline when required for management of faecal impaction.

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Do not routinely administer any laxatives to patients with potential intestinal obstruction or following lower bowel surgery. Patients on opiates will require active bowel management especially if also receiving muscle relaxants.
References: Various data sheets. <http://www.medsafe.govt.nz>