

# Drug Information Table

## Surfactant Laxative/Stool softeners – docusate sodium (Colace), docusate sodium and senna (Peri-Colace)

<b>THERAPEUTIC USE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Constipation</li><li>• Prevention of fecal impaction, straining during defecation, painful elimination of hard stools</li></ul>
<b>ADVERSE DRUG REACTIONS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Diarrhea, mild abdominal cramps</li><li>• Throat Irritation</li><li>• Rashes</li></ul>
<b>INTERVENTIONS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Monitor for abdominal distention severe diarrhea and dehydration.</li><li>• Administer with a full glass of water or juice, on an empty stomach for best results</li><li>• Assess stool color, consistency, and amount</li></ul>
<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Give orally with at least 8 oz of fluid.</li><li>• Expect soft stools several days after initiating therapy.</li></ul>
<b>CLIENT INSTRUCTIONS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Report severe diarrhea and stop taking the drug.</li><li>• Drink plenty of fluids.</li><li>• Advise clients to increase exercise and fluid intake (at least 2 to 3 L/day) and consume high-fiber foods (bran, fresh fruits/vegetables).</li></ul>
<b>CONTRAINDICATIONS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gastrointestinal obstruction, perforation</li><li>• Concurrent use of mineral oil</li><li>• Fecal impaction</li><li>• Nausea, vomiting</li><li>• Undiagnosed abdominal pain</li></ul>
<b>PRECAUTIONS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Use cautiously with clients prone to developing a laxative dependency.</li></ul>
<b>INTERACTIONS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Do not administer within 2 hr of any other laxative, esp. mineral oil.</li></ul>