

Drug Information Table

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

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