

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.