

This information was up to date at the time of release to the Heads of Midwifery.

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Updating arrangements for the formulary should be decided upon and implemented at a local level.

<b>Glycerol</b>	
<b>Legal status</b> (GSL, P or POM on exemption list, or PGD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GSL - midwife may supply</li> </ul>
<b>Patient group</b>	Antenatal and postnatal women until discharged from midwifery care.
<b>Clinical indication</b>	Constipation, which has not responded to ispaghula husk or lactulose. Glycerol suppository causes an osmotic and a mild stimulant effect on the rectum and thereby softens and lubricates hardened faeces.
<b>Pharmacology</b> (Onset and duration of action where appropriate)	Glycerol is a stimulant laxative as a result of local mild irritation of the rectum. Onset of action is 15 to 30 minutes.
<b>Pharmaceutical form, strength, route of administration</b>	Glycerol suppository contains glycerol 2.8g in a 4g suppository plus gelatine and purified water.  For rectal administration.
<b>Dose, frequency and maximum number of doses or period of time for administration or supply</b>	One 4g-suppository daily for a maximum of two consecutive days. Moisten suppository with water or lubricating jelly before use.  Onset of action is rapid usually within 15-30 minutes.
<b>Contra-indications/exclusion criteria</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>known hypersensitivity to any component of the medicine</li> <li>it is not suitable for the evacuation of faeces high up in the bowel</li> <li>should not be used where there is severe abdominal pain</li> </ul>
<b>Cautions and action that will be taken if a caution applies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>caution in patients with intestinal obstruction or blockage</li> <li>prolonged use of the product can precipitate onset of an atonic non-functioning colon</li> <li>check for and document any allergies</li> <li>check and document past medical and drug history and current medication to ascertain potential for overdose</li> <li>if a caution applies consult with a doctor</li> <li>document consultation in maternity record</li> </ul>
<b>Medicine interactions and action that will be taken if a patient is taking a medicine that may interact</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>allow 2-4 hours between administration of other rectal preparations</li> <li>if there is a clinically significant drug interaction, consult with a doctor before administration or supply</li> <li>document consultation in maternity record</li> <li>refer to current BNF for latest information on interactions</li> </ul>

# Glycerol

<p><b>Potential adverse reactions and side effects including actions to be taken if adverse medicine reaction is suspected</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>may occasionally cause local irritation and may cause abdominal cramps</i></li> <li>▪ <i>chronic use of laxatives should be avoided as severe dehydration can occur and the body becomes accustomed to regular evacuation, which can affect normal bowel function</i></li>   <li>▪ <i>on labour</i> <span style="float: right;"><i>Nil</i></span></li> <li>▪ <i>on the neonate</i> <span style="float: right;"><i>Nil</i></span></li> <li>▪ <i>on breast feeding</i> <span style="float: right;"><i>Nil</i></span></li>   <li>▪ <i>if a serious adverse reaction is suspected please report to the MHRA Yellow Card Scheme <a href="http://yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/">http://yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/</a></i></li> </ul>
<p><b>Overdose</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ unlikely given the physical limitations of administration</li> <li>▪ immediate assessment/treatment is essential - refer to medical staff</li> <li>▪ manage in accordance with established treatment guidelines or see BNF overdose section</li> <li>▪ for further advice contact National Poisons Centre 0344 892 0111</li> </ul>
<p><b>Action if patient declines</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ refer to authorised prescriber or doctor</li> <li>▪ document in maternity record</li> </ul>
<p><b>Additional advice and information</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ advise to contact midwife/GP if condition worsens or symptoms persist</li> <li>▪ give lifestyle advice and advise woman to avoid medicines that can cause constipation</li> <li>▪ supply the manufacturer's patient information leaflet if requested</li> </ul>
<p><b>Patient monitoring arrangements during and after treatment and follow-up required</b></p>	<p>If there is no response after 1 hour, refer to medical staff.</p>
<p><b>Particular storage requirements</b></p>	<p>-</p>
<p><b>References</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Summary of Product Characteristics – Martindale Pharma. Text revision 02.01.2015 Accessed 23.12.2019 <a href="http://medicines.org.uk">http://medicines.org.uk</a></li> <li>2. <a href="http://www.bnf.org">http://www.bnf.org</a></li> </ol>	