

GLYCEROL (GLYCERINE) SUPPOSITORY

Indication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote meconium passage¹ Short-term management of constipation² 											
RECTAL	Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suppository 700 mg 										
	Dosage³	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Single dose once <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Current gest age (weeks)*</th> <th>Dose</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Less than 32+0</td> <td>Small chip (less than one quarter)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>32+0 to 39+6</td> <td>Quarter suppository</td> </tr> <tr> <td>40+0 to 43+6</td> <td>One half to one full suppository</td> </tr> <tr> <td>44+0 or more</td> <td>Full suppository</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>*Current gestational age is the same as postmenstrual age (PMA)</i></p>	Current gest age (weeks)*	Dose	Less than 32+0	Small chip (less than one quarter)	32+0 to 39+6	Quarter suppository	40+0 to 43+6	One half to one full suppository	44+0 or more	Full suppository
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44+0 or more	Full suppository											
Preparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove suppository from packaging and hold firmly with sterile metal forceps Using a sterile blade, cut lengthwise to obtain prescribed dose size Round off sharp/abrasive cut edges by smoothing with gloved finger 											
Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moisten suppository with lubricant⁴ Insert fully into rectum³ 											
Special considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preterm infant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dosage recommendations (limited evidence) based on consensus and clinical judgement for gestational age and weight⁴ No increased risk of rectal perforation or NEC^{1,5} 											
Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For passage of meconium or bowel motions 											
Compatibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nil known 											
Incompatibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nil known 											
Interactions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nil significant 											
Stability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Store at room temperature below 30 °C Discard unused portion 											
Side effects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Digestive: abdominal discomfort³, local irritation⁶ 											
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Osmotic laxative with lubricating properties⁶ May act as a stimulant by its local irritant effects⁷ Onset of action 15–60 minutes⁸ 											
Abbreviations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current gestational age is the same as <i>postmenstrual age</i> (PMA) NEC: necrotising enterocolitis 											
Keywords	neonatal medicine, neonatal monograph, suppository, constipation, laxative, aperient, peristalsis, NEC, necrotising enterocolitis, meconium											



The Queensland Clinical Guideline *Neonatal Medicines* is integral to and should be read in conjunction with this monograph. Refer to the disclaimer. Destroy all printed copies of this monograph after use.

References

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