

Drug Class Review Monograph – GPI Class 46 – Laxatives

Review Time Frame: 02/2016 – 01/2017

Previous Class Review: 11/2016

Background:

Laxatives help to relieve constipation by increasing motility, stool bulk, and frequency. The classes of laxatives include:

- Bulk-forming laxatives – absorb water and increase fecal mass
- Surfactants – lower the surface tension of stool, allowing water to more easily enter the stool
- Osmotic agents – cause intestinal water secretion and thereby increase stool frequency
- Simulant laxatives – alter electrolyte transport by the intestinal mucosa and increase intestinal motor activity

New treatment guideline recommendations:

- None identified

Newly approved drugs:

- None identified

Newly approved formulations:

- Approved 12/27/2016: ColPrep kit (sodium sulfate, potassium sulfate, and magnesium sulfate) for oral solution; currently not commercially available-anticipated launch date unknown.

Newly approved generics:

- None identified

Discontinued drugs:

- None identified

FDA Safety Alerts/black box warnings:

- None identified

Pipeline alerts:

Agents pending FDA approval include:

- None identified

References:

1. Wald A. Management of chronic constipation in adults. Talley NJ, Grover S. (Ed), UpToDate. Waltham MA. Accessed January 2017.
2. Clinical Pharmacology [database online]. Tampa, FL: Gold Standard, Inc.; 2017. Available at: <http://www.clinicalpharmacology-ip.com/>. Accessed February 2017.
3. US Script Oracle PBM: Medi-Span® Master Drug Data Base. February 2017.
4. WWW.FDA.GOV.