



ADULT MEDICATION GUIDELINE

GLYCEROL SUPPOSITORIES

Scope (Staff): All WNHS Staff

Scope (Area): Obstetrics and Gynaecology

This document should be read in conjunction with the [Disclaimer](#).

Quick Links

[Dose](#)

[Administration](#)

[Monitoring](#)

[Pregnancy and
Breastfeeding](#)

Restrictions

[Formulary: Unrestricted](#)

Medication Class

Laxative (Osmotic laxative)

Presentation

Rectal Suppository: 2.8g

Storage

Store at room temperature, below 25°C

Dose

Constipation

Rectal Administration

Dose: 2.8g (1 suppository)

Administration

Rectal administration for constipation:

Insert ONE adult suppository into the rectum and allow it to remain for 15-30 minutes (it is not necessary for the entire suppository to melt to obtain satisfactory results).

Monitoring

Stool softness

Ability to pass stools after appropriate administration and use of the medication

Pregnancy

1st Trimester: Safe to use

2nd Trimester: Safe to use

3rd Trimester: Safe to use

Breastfeeding

Safe to use

Comments

Onset of action is 5 to 30 minutes

Ensure good hygiene and appropriate administration of the suppository – refer to the [Medication Administration](#) guideline

Related Policies, Procedures & Guidelines

WNHS Clinical Practice Guidelines:

- [Bowel Care](#)
- [Palliative care](#)

WNHS Pharmaceutical and Medicines Management Guidelines:

- [Medication administration](#)

References

Australian Medicines Handbook. Glycerol. In: Australian Medicines Handbook [Internet]. Adelaide (South Australia): Australian Medicines Handbook; 2023 [cited 2023 Feb 06]. Available from: <https://amhonline.amh.net.au/>

The Royal Women's Hospital. Glycerol (gastrointestinal). In: Pregnancy and Breastfeeding Medicines Guide [Internet]. Parkville (Victoria): The Royal Women's Hospital; 2022 [cited 2023 Feb 06]. Available from: <https://thewomenspbmg.org.au/>

Keywords	Glycerol, Suppositories, Constipation, Laxative, Aperient				
Document Owner:	Chief Pharmacist				
Author/ Reviewer	KEMH Pharmacy Department				
Version Info:	5.0				
Date First Issued:	31/01/2015	Last Reviewed:	March 2023	Review Date:	March 2026
Endorsed by:	Medicines and Therapeutics Committee			Date:	April 2023
NSQHS Standards Applicable:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  Std 1: Clinical Governance <input type="checkbox"/>  Std 2: Partnering with Consumers <input type="checkbox"/>  Std 3: Preventing and Controlling Healthcare Associated Infection <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  Std 4: Medication Safety		<input type="checkbox"/>  Std 5: Comprehensive Care <input type="checkbox"/>  Std 6: Communicating for Safety <input type="checkbox"/>  Std 7: Blood Management <input type="checkbox"/>  Std 8: Recognising and Responding to Acute Deterioration		
Printed or personally saved electronic copies of this document are considered uncontrolled. Access the current version from WNHS HealthPoint.					

The health impact upon Aboriginal people has been considered, and where relevant incorporated and appropriately addressed in the development of this document (insert ISD Number). (Please refer to the Aboriginal Health Impact Statement and Declaration for Department of Health and Health Service Provider Guidelines – please delete once you have completed this).

This document can be made available in alternative formats on request for a person with a disability.

© Women and Newborn Health Service 2023

Copyright of this material is vested in the State of Western Australia unless otherwise indicated. Apart from any fair dealing for the purposes of private study, research, criticism or review, as permitted under the provisions of the Copyright Act 1968, no part may be reproduced or re-used for any purposes whatsoever without written permission of the State of Western Australia.