

Treatment for Chronic Idiopathic Constipation

Initial management of chronic constipation includes patient education, behavior modification, dietary change, bulk-forming laxatives, and the use of non-bulk-forming laxatives or enemas

Patients with persistent symptoms – For patients who do not tolerate bulk-forming laxatives (psyllium) or respond poorly to fiber, we suggest an osmotic laxative next if tolerated (polyethylene glycol). Other options include stimulant laxatives (bisacodyl, senna, and sodium picosulfate), secretory agents (lubiprostone, linaclotide, plecanatide), and prokinetic agents (prucalopride)

Linzess (Linaclotide)	Trulance (plecanatide)	Amitiza (Lubiprostone)
Can relieve constipation along with abdominal pain and discomfort	Can relieve constipation	Can relieve constipation
Onset of symptom relief occurred as early as 1 week	Onset of symptom relief occurred as early as 1 week	Slower onset of action
Main side effect of diarrhea	Main side effect of diarrhea, with small chance of severe diarrhea	Main side effects of nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain
Higher Cost	High Cost	High cost
No generic available	No generic available	Generic Available 2021

Medications Used for Chronic Constipation	30 DS Cost*
Linzess (linaclotide)	\$582.43
Amitiza (lubriprostone)	\$430.08
Trulance (plecanatide)	\$459.89
Polyethylene glycol	\$30
Senna	\$16.79
Psyllium fiber	\$5.69
Senna with Docusate	\$5.50
Docusate	\$5.79
Motegrity (prucalopride)	Unknown

*The cost is the avg amt paid by patient and payer. The pharmacy data is collected from payers and patients within the Arkansas Health Network.

This information is not intended to dictate or substitute your professional judgment in a particular patient.