


# Comfort Medication Guide: Bisacodyl Suppository

## INTRODUCTION TO BISACODYL SUPPOSITORY

Bisacodyl is a medication often prescribed as a part of a comfort kit provided by the hospice agency to manage constipation at the end-of-life. It works by stimulating the bowels by activating the smooth muscle of the intestine.

## OVERVIEW OF BISACODYL

<b>Medication Description</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Available as a suppository</li> <li>Purpose of use in hospice care is to provide relief to patients who are experiencing constipation</li> </ul>
<b>Medication Dosing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Take at prescribed dose, not more frequently or at higher dose than prescribed.</li> <li>Per rectal route</li> <li>Ensure to unwrap suppository before inserting.</li> <li>Typically provides benefit in 15 minutes to 1 hour.</li> <li>If symptoms of constipation have not improved with consistent use, please notify hospice nurse, taking more than prescribed is not likely to improve symptoms.</li> <li>Adjustments to dose are to be determined by hospice provider based on response</li> </ul>
<b>Administration</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lay on side with lower leg straightened and upper leg bent forward</li> <li>Lift buttocks, unwrap suppository and insert ½ to 1 inch into rectum</li> </ul>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to lay down for 15-20 minutes to allow suppository to melt</li> </ul>
<b>Most Common Side Effects</b>	<p>The following may occur when starting bisacodyl suppository therapy. Many have no side effects or only these minor side effects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Abdominal pain</li> <li>Abdominal cramps</li> <li>Rectal burning</li> </ul> <p>Please contact your hospice team if side effects persist or are severe</p>
<b>Drug interactions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Taking with other laxatives may enhance adverse/toxic effects of laxatives</li> <li>Be sure the hospice agency has an updated list of all medication's patient taking</li> </ul>
<b>Medication Storage</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Should be stored at room temperature</li> <li>Keep away from light, moisture and children</li> </ul>