

Death and harm from electrolyte abnormalities, dehydration and serious gastrointestinal problems have been associated with the use of bowel cleansing solutions prior to surgery or investigative procedures (Picolax®, Citrafleet®, Fleet Phospho-soda®, Klean- Prep®, Moviprep®). Frail and debilitated elderly patients, children and those with contraindications are particularly at risk. **It is the responsibility of the referring clinician** to ensure that there are no contraindications for the use of prescribed bowel cleansing solution and that any precautions for its use have been addressed. National Patient Safety Agency Rapid Response Report RRR012. Reducing the risk of harm from oral bowel cleansing solutions: Supporting information. Feb 2009.

Warnings for the use of oral bowel cleansing solutions[†]	
Contraindications	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Known or suspected gastrointestinal obstruction or perforation, ileus, gastric retention, acute intestinal or gastric ulceration, toxic colitis or toxic megacolon. • Severe acute inflammatory disease. • Severely reduced renal function, as accumulation of electrolytes contained in the bowel cleansing medicines may occur in plasma • Congestive heart failure (NYHA grade III or IV). • Difficulty swallowing. • Reduced levels of consciousness. • Hypersensitivity to any of the ingredients (Moviprep® contains aspartame: not to be used in phenylketonurics) • G6PD deficiency (Moviprep® only due to ascorbate content) 	
Special warnings and precautions	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dehydration should be corrected before use. • In debilitated fragile patients, patients with poor health, those with clinically significant renal impairment and those at risk of electrolyte imbalance, the physician should consider performing a baseline and post- treatment electrolyte and renal function test. • An inadequate oral intake of water and electrolytes could create clinically significant deficiencies, particularly in less fit patients. In this regard, the elderly debilitated individuals and patients risk of hypokalaemia may need particular attention. • Use with caution in patients taking the following drugs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lithium: changes in fluid balance may increase risk of lithium toxicity ○ Corticosteroids, diuretics: these medicines may increase risk of hypokalaemia ○ Digoxin: as hypokalaemia increases the risk of digoxin toxicity. • Caution is also advised when bowel preparations are used in patients taking non steroidal anti-inflammatory medicines or medicine known to induce Syndrome of Inappropriate Anti-diuretic Hormone release (SIADH) e.g. tricyclic antidepressants, selective serotonin re-uptake inhibitors, anti-psychotic drugs and carbamazepine; these medicines may increase the risk of water retention and/ or electrolyte imbalance. • The period of bowel cleansing should not exceed twenty four hours because longer preparation may increase the risk of water and electrolyte imbalance. • Oral medication should not be taken within one hour of administration of Moviprep® as it may be flushed from the gastro-intestinal tract and not absorbed. • Bowel cleansing medicine may modify the absorption of regularly prescribed oral medication. The therapeutic effect of drugs with a narrow therapeutic index or short half-life may be particularly affected (e.g. antiepileptics, medicines should not be taken within one hour of taking Moviprep®). • Recent gastrointestinal surgery. • A bowel preparation needs to be prescribed for each procedure. The standard preparation used at the Princess Grace Hospital is Picolax and Dulcolax, unless otherwise prescribed. • The bowel preparation will be supplied by Endoscopy staff and posted to patients via registered mail to patients along with an information leaflet on its correct use or given by the consultant at consultation. 	

Bowel Preparation Prescription	Yes	No
Please supply Picolax 2 doses and Dulcolax x2 tablets the day prior to colonoscopy.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Phosphate enema prescription for flexible sigmoidoscopy referrals only	Yes	No
Please supply Phosphate enema (Fleet®) x 1 To be administered rectally ½ hour prior to flexible sigmoidoscopy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Declaration	
I authorise for this patient to undergo the above procedure and I have hereby prescribed bowel cleansing solution which may be posted to my patient	
Doctor Signature:	Date:

By signing this form you are prescribing bowel preparation or enema

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