

DERBYSHIRE JOINT AREA PRESCRIBING COMMITTEE (JAPC)

Algorithm For The Treatment of Refractory Symptomatic Chronic Constipation in adults (NICE TA211#)

JAPC classification
Prucalopride – GREY
 after gastro consultant/specialist initiation. GPs may continue to prescribe as per algorithm. See dose table below.

— 2° care responsibility
 — 1° care responsibility

Anatomical, iatrogenic¹ and biochemical causes excluded

Dietary intervention/Exercise/Fluid/Regular meals

Has patient completed a trial of a first laxative at the highest tolerated dose for at least 6 months, or for a reasonable time²?

Has patient completed a trial of a second laxative from a different class at the highest tolerated dose for at least 6 months, or for a reasonable time²?

Yes – failed, stop laxative

Yes - improved

Commence prucalopride
 Phone patient after 4 weeks
 Did patient improve³?

No

Stop prucalopride and consider other measure (enemas, colonic lavage, surgical options)

Continue laxative treatment

Yes

Continue prucalopride treatment

Yes

12 monthly reviews by GP
 Treatment beneficial?

No

Consider a 3 month treatment break²
 Beneficial?

No

Refer to specialist

Yes

Linacotide is an option for patients with irritable bowel syndrome with constipation (IBS-C) following initiation and assessment by specialist.
 See [IBS guideline](#).

Naloxegol (NICE TA345) is an option for treating opioid induced constipation after consultant/specialist initiation and stabilisation for 3 months

#TA211 only includes prucalopride use in women; licensing & local agreement is that this can be extended to use in men

1. Iatrogenic causes = opiates, tricyclic anti-depressants, anti-cholinergics and calcium containing antacids
2. local expert advice
3. Improvement = three or more spontaneous bowel movements per week

Drug	Indication	Dose	Cost (DT December 2024)	Comments
Prucalopride	Chronic constipation when other laxatives fail to provide adequate response	<p>Elderly (≥65 years): Initially 1 mg once daily, increased if necessary to 2 mg once daily</p> <p>Adults: 2mg once a day</p> <p>Review treatment if no response after 4 weeks.</p> <p>Prucalopride Drugs BNF NICE</p>	<p>1mg tablets: £26.33 per 28 tablets</p> <p>2mg tablets: £10.94 per 28 tablets</p>	If using dose of 2mg prescribe as 2mg tablets as more cost effective.