

## The Impact of Medication on the Bowel

Drug	Impact on Bowel
Opioid Analgesics	A common side effect of opioid analgesics is <b>constipation</b>
Anti-migraine Drugs	Can cause <b>nausea and vomiting</b> which can impact on the bowel too
NSAIDs	Can cause <b>diarrhoea</b> in some people
Antacids	Antacids containing <b>magnesium</b> tend to have a <b>laxative effect</b> Antacids containing <b>aluminium</b> may cause <b>constipation</b> Some ulcer treatments (e.g. <b>cimetidine, ranitidine</b> ) can cause <b>diarrhoea</b> Proton pump inhibitors (e.g. <b>lanzoprazole</b> ) can cause <b>abdominal pain, flatulence, diarrhoea or constipation</b>
Antibiotics	Different types of antibiotics often cause <b>diarrhoea</b>
Anti-convulsants	Can cause <b>diarrhoea</b> or <b>constipation</b>
Anti-depressants	Can cause <b>diarrhoea</b> or <b>constipation</b>
Anti-motility Drugs	All medications used to treat acute diarrhoea (e.g. codeine phosphate, loperamide) can lead to <b>constipation</b> . Bowel habits should always be monitored closely.
Anti-muscarinics	Commonly cause <b>constipation</b> .
Anti-parkinsonism Drugs	Different types of drugs used to treat parkinsonism can cause <b>constipation</b> or <b>diarrhoea</b>
Iron Preparations	All iron-containing preparations can cause an altered bowel habit, either <b>constipation</b> or <b>diarrhoea</b>
Statins	Can cause gastro-intestinal upsets, including nausea and diarrhoea
Bulk Forming Laxatives	E.g. <b>Fybogel</b> – can cause <b>faecal impaction/intestinal obstruction</b> if not taken with enough fluid. Older people are especially at risk
Stimulant Laxatives	E.g. <b>Senna, docusate</b> – can cause <b>diarrhoea</b> if not used correctly.
Osmotic Laxatives	E.g. <b>Laxido, lactulose</b> – <b>flatulence</b> and <b>abdominal cramps</b>