



PICOLAX TREATMENT

Information for patients MORNING

appointments

Please follow the instructions in this leaflet <u>instead</u> of the manufacturers instructions, as they may differ. The time of your appointment has an influence on what you can and cannot eat and drink

This medicine is for you and must not be passed on to anyone else.

If you have any concerns, please contact the Gastroenterology Unit Sister on – 01603 286286 Ext: 6542

Revised By: A Bujak, Gastroenterology

Who is this leaflet for?

This leaflet is a quick reference guide for patients taking Picolax and should be read in conjunction with the manufacturer's guidance supplied with your medicine. It is intended to provide a useful summary of the key issues. If you have any questions please speak to your pharmacist, GP or hospital nurse/doctor who will be able to advise you.

What is Picolax?

Picolax is a preparation used to clear the bowel before some investigations and/or surgery. It comes as a powder that when mixed with water makes a solution, which you are then able to drink as instructed.

It works by increasing the activity of the bowel and also by holding water in the bowel, which helps to wash it out.

Do not take Picolax if you have had an allergic reaction to it in the past. Please inform your hospital doctor or contact one of the numbers given on this advice sheet if you have this or any other allergies.

Please discuss any medical problems you may have with your hospital doctor or GP before taking Picolax. Although your notes will be reviewed by a doctor before you are prescribed Picolax they may not be fully aware of any problems you have.

You must inform the doctor if you are pregnant, attempting to become pregnant or breast feeding.

If you are a diabetic it is important that you discuss your management with your GP, hospital doctor or your diabetic team. Please do not start Picolax before you have done this. There is a fully informative instruction leaflet in the Picolax packet.

How to store Picolax

- Keep out of sight and reach of children
- Store in the original package and at a cool temperature (not in a fridge)
- Do not take the medicine after the date of expiry marked on the packet

Return all old and unused medicines to the pharmacist.

How to take Picolax

Two doses (sachets) are normally taken, 6 to 8 hours apart the day before your procedure. The exact time depends on when your appointment is scheduled, e.g. morning or afternoon. There is a separate "Picolax Treatment Plan" in this leaflet which details when you should take Picolax and what foods you are allowed/not allowed. Please follow the instructions carefully.

Picolax should always be mixed with water, 150 - 250mls of cold tap water should be sufficient. It is not unusual for the mixture to become hot when mixed, if this is the case leave it to cool down before taking.

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What to expect when you take Picolax

You can expect to have frequent loose bowel motions at any time after taking a dose of Picolax. It will be similar to having diarrhoea and you need to ensure that you have access to a toilet that is close by at all times.

It is very important that you replace fluid lost from your body by drinking plenty of **clear** fluids preferably water throughout your treatment with Picolax. Try to keep warm, you often feel cold when you develop frequent loose/watery bowel motions.

Drink at least a large glassful of water (clear fluid) every hour while you are awake. It is better to avoid alcohol while you are on the Picolax treatment plan (as alcohol causes dehydration) however, a small amount may be consumed.

The success of the hospital procedure depends on the bowel being as clear as possible.

It is helpful to use a barrier cream around your bottom; Sudocream or Zinc & Caster Oil cream are excellent. You may also want to wear a small pad to protect your underwear.

If you have a stoma, contact your Stoma Care Nurse for advice. You may need drainable appliances to enable you to manage the diarrhoea.

Possible side-effects

- Occasionally you may develop vomiting and severe diarrhoea (which can lead to dehydration, loss of fluid and body salts). If this happens stop taking the Picolax and report to your doctor.
- You may experience tiredness, headache, nausea, and stomach pains. This is normal; continue to take Picolax unless you feel unable to do so.
- Pain low down round your anus can also occur.
- Allergic reactions requiring medical attention are rare.

Do not hesitate to contact your doctor if you experience any severe side effects, or if you are at all worried.



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PICOLAX Treatment Plan For MORNING Appointments

STEP 1:	5 DAYS BEFORE YOUR PROCEDURE
	If you are having a colonoscopy you must stop taking Warfarin five days before your procedure. Make sure that the doctor at the hospital or your GP has given you advice on this.
STEP 2:	2 DAYS BEFORE YOUR PROCEDURE
	Eat foods which are low in fibre. Avoid foods such as fruit, green vegetables, cereals, baked beans and brown bread. Choose foods from the "foods allowed" list provided separately with this plan.
STEP 3:	THE DAY BEFORE YOUR PROCEDURE
Before Breakfast	Take the FIRST sachet of Picolax (mix with approximately 250 mls of water) not later than 8.00 am. Drink half a pint of clear fluid hourly throughout the day until bedtime.
Breakfast	Small quantity of low fibre foods from the "foods allowed" list. Black tea or coffee. You may have sugar or sugar substitutes. Drink plenty of water or cordial.
Mid morning	Black tea or coffee. You may have sugar or sugar substitutes.
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• Lunch	(No later than 12 midday) Suggested menu:
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Lunch Mid afternoon	Small amount of meat. This can be well minced beef, lamb, ham veal, pork or poultry. You may have a small amount of fish instead of meat, you may have shellfish. With any one of the following: 2 slices of white bread/toast without butter or margarine, or 2 egg sized potatoes without skin, boiled, mashed or baked, but without butter or margarine or oil, or White (not brown) rice. Vegetarians may have a small quantity of texturised vegetable protein in place of meat or fish.

Revised By:

A Bujak, Gastroenterology June 2013, December 2013 7 March 2014. Valid Until: March 2016. Reviewed:

PICOLAX Treatment Plan For MORNING Appointments

Supper 7– 9pm	No solid food is allowed. You may have clear soup, Bovril and Oxo made into drinks and you may eat clear (NOT red/purple) jellies for dessert.
STEP 4:	DAY OF YOUR PROCEDURE
	No food is allowed but you may continue to drink clear fluids up to your procedure.

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Foods allowed (small quantities)

- Tender lean meat, poultry, ham, fish.
- Potatoes boiled, mashed, roast or chips, (no skins)
- Well cooked cauliflower florets (no stalks), carrots, turnip or swede
- Consommé or strained soup
- Soft tinned fruit in natural juice, except those with pips
- · White bread, white flour
- White rice and pasta
- Water biscuits, cream crackers, Rich Tea, Marie plain sponge cake
- Plain scone (no fruit)
- Honey, syrup,
- Jellies without fruit but NOT red/orange/purple
- Herbs and spices
- Tea, coffee (sugar allowed)
- Strained fruit juices
- Lemon Squash
- A small amount of alcohol
- Water
- Fizzy drinks

Foods not allowed

- Tough, fibrous meat, hamburgers, beef burgers, sausages, faggots
- Sausage rolls, pasties. Pies and pastries
- Whole fruit yoghurts, Muesli yoghurt
- Jacket potatoes, where skins are eaten
- All vegetables not listed above
- All salads
- Baked beans
- Thick vegetable soup
- All fruit not listed above
- Coloured Jellies
- Whole meal and granary bread
- Wholemeal flour
- Brown rice and whole wheat pasta
- High fibre crisp breads, digestives, hob-nobs
- Cakes containing dried fruit, nuts or coconut
- All nuts and dried fruit
- Jam or marmalade with skin or pips
- Peanut butter
- All high fibre breakfast cereals, porridge, bran
- Chutney, pickles
- Cheese, cottage cheese or cheese sauce
- Butter, margarine and fats and oils
- Ribena
- Eggs

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