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## Gastrointestinal Disorders: Irritable Bowel Syndrome

**Table 4:** Drugs Used for the Management of Irritable Bowel Syndrome

[Hide Drug List](#)[Expand Drug List](#)[Collapse Drug List](#)[HELP](#)[Compare Drugs](#)[View Full Table](#)

### Antidiarrheals

 [loperamide](#)

### Bulk-forming Agents

 [calcium polycarbophil](#) [psyllium hydrophilic mucilloid](#)

### Tricyclic Antidepressants

 [amitriptyline](#) [desipramine](#)[Back to Top](#)

Drug Class	Drug	Dose	Adverse Effects	Drug Interactions	Comments	Cost <sup>b</sup>
Antidiarrheals	<i>loperamide</i> <a href="#">Imodium</a> , <a href="#">Riva-Loperamide</a> , other generics	<b>For diarrhea:</b> 2– 4 mg as needed (max 12 mg/day)	Abdominal cramps, dizziness, dry mouth.		For short-term control of diarrhea. Nonprescription.	\$\$-\$
Bulk-forming Agents <sup>a</sup>	<i>calcium polycarbophil</i> Prodiem Fibre Therapy	<b>For constipation:</b> 625 mg caplets: 2 caplets daily to QID, not to exceed 8 caplets/24 h	Cramps, bloating, flatulence.	Advise patients not to take within 3 h of other drugs to minimize interference with absorption.	Take with fluids. Nonprescription.	\$
Bulk-forming Agents <sup>a</sup>	<i>psyllium hydrophilic mucilloid</i> <a href="#">Metamucil Preparations</a> , generics	<b>For constipation:</b> 15 g BID with meals, then adjust (varies with product)	Cramps, bloating, flatulence.	Advise patients not to take within 3 h of other drugs to minimize interference with absorption.	Take with fluids. Nonprescription.	\$
Tricyclic Antidepressants	<a href="#">amitriptyline</a> generics	<b>For abdominal pain:</b> 25– 100 mg QHS	Drowsiness, dry mouth, headache.	Possible CNS excitation with serotonergic agents. Avoid combined use with other agents that prolong QTc.	Use low doses for select patients with intractable pain. Numerous other agents are available.	\$
Tricyclic Antidepressants	<a href="#">desipramine</a> generics	<b>For abdominal pain:</b> 25– 100 mg QHS	Drowsiness, dry mouth, headache.	Possible CNS excitation with serotonergic agents. Avoid combined use with other agents that prolong QTc.	Use low doses for select patients with intractable pain. Numerous other agents are available.	\$

<sup>a</sup>. Information on laxatives can be found in [Symptom Control: Constipation in Adults](#).

<sup>b</sup>. Cost per day includes drug cost only.

Legend: \$ < \$1    \$-\$\$ < \$1-2    \$\$ \$1-2

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