LINZESS (Linaclotide)

Linzess is approved for treatment in adults (over the age of 18) with irritable bowel syndrome with constipation (IBS-C) and for chronic idiopathic constipation (CIC). Linzess works mainly in the intestines, for this reason most of the side effects are related to your GI system. Linzess is approved to help relieve the abdominal pain and constipation of IBS-C and CIC. This includes hard and infrequent stools, pain and incomplete bowel movements.

→ **Dosage:**

Linzess is available only by prescription. It is a capsule that comes in two doses; IBS-C: 290 mcg once daily and CIC: 145 mcg once daily. Dosage may be adjusted based on symptoms.

→ **How to Take Linzess:**

Take your Linzess on an empty stomach 1-2 hours before eating your first meal of the day. Swallow the capsules whole, do not break or chew the capsule.

→ **Possible Side Effects:**

“Idiopathic” means the cause of your constipation is unknown.
The most common side effect is **diarrhea**, this can be severe. This often begins within the first two weeks. Notify us if you develop severe diarrhea. Other side effects are gas, stomach-area (abdominal) pain, swelling, or a feeling of fullness or pressure in your abdomen (bloating).

**In addition, call your doctor or go to the nearest hospital emergency room right away if you develop unusual or severe stomach-area (abdominal) pain, especially if you also have bright red, bloody stools or black stools that look like tar.**

→ **Storing Linzess:**
Store Linzess at room temperature (68°F to 77°F), and keep Linzess in the bottle it comes in. Keep the Linzess bottle tightly closed, in a dry place, and keep the desiccant packet (the drying agent) in the bottle.

→ **Coverage:**
Linzess is not covered by some insurance programs. In some cases a prior authorization can be sent to your insurance company for approval. Linzess can also be expensive or have a large co-payment, there may be assistance available.