

# Senna (Senokot<sup>®</sup>) & Senna-S (Senokot-S<sup>®</sup>): A Patient & Caregiver Guide

You (or your loved one) are taking a medication called senna (brand name Senokot<sup>®</sup>) or senna with docusate sodium (Senokot-S<sup>®</sup>). Senna is a laxative. Docusate sodium is a stool softener. These can be used separately or together to treat and prevent constipation.

Senna comes as a tablet or syrup that is swallowed. Senna-s is available as a tablet that is swallowed. These medications may be used as needed to help treat new or worsening symptoms. They are sometimes used on a regular basis when someone is taking pain medications that can cause constipation.

## **Possible side effects of senna or senna-s:**

Seek emergency medical help if you or your loved one have any of the following signs of a severe allergic reaction:

- Swelling of the face, lips, tongue, or throat
- Hives (red, raised, itchy skin)
- Difficulty breathing

Contact the hospice team if you or your loved one are experiencing loose or watery stools (diarrhea) or have severe abdominal pain.

Potential less serious side effects of using senna or senna-s may include:

- Abdominal cramps (mild)
- Gas and bloating

Contact the hospice team if your (or your loved one's) symptoms do not improve or get worse.

Reference: *Clinical Pharmacology* last accessed 1.25.24