Nursing Process Focus:
Patients Receiving Diphenoxylate with Atropine (Lomotil)

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<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Potential Nursing Diagnoses</th>
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| Prior to administration:  
• Obtain complete health history including allergies, drug history and possible drug interactions.  
• Assess for presence/history of diarrhea, dehydration, electrolyte imbalance.  
• Assess sodium level, chloride level, potassium level, stool culture, presence of dehydration, vital signs and EKG. |  
• Risk for Imbalanced Fluid Volume, related to fluid loss secondary to diarrhea  
• Risk for Impaired Skin Integrity, related to diarrhea stools  
• Risk for Injury (falls), related to drowsiness secondary to drug therapy  
• Deficient Knowledge, related to drug action and side effects |

**Planning: Patient Goals and Expected Outcomes**

The patient will:  
• Demonstrate understanding of instructions necessary for drug therapy.  
• Immediately report persistent diarrhea, constipation, abdominal pain, blood in stool, confusion, dizziness or fever.

**Implementation**

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<th>Interventions and (Rationales)</th>
<th>Patient Education/Discharge Planning</th>
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| *Monitor abdomen for distention and degree and location of abdominal pain. (This may be sign of toxic megacolon.) | Advise patient:  
• to record the frequency of stools. Instruct patient to note if any blood is present.  
• to report any abdominal pain or abdominal distention to the health care provider immediately. |
| *Monitor frequency, volume, characteristics, and consistency of stools. | Instruct patient:  
• To report worsening of diarrhea to health care provider.  
• To report occurrence of bloody stools to health care provider.  
• to increase fluid intake and to drink electrolyte enriched fluids. |
| *Offer ice, gum or sour candy. May swab lips with a glycerine-based emollient. (The medication may cause dry mucous membranes.) | *Advise patient to suck on sour candy or chew gum to relieve sensations of dry mouth. |
| *Initiate safety measures to prevent falls. (The medication may cause drowsiness.) | Advise patient:  
• not to drive or operate heavy machinery due to drowsiness.  
• to abstain from the use of alcohol while using this medication. |
| *Monitor electrolyte levels. | *Advise patient to keep all laboratory appointments. |

**Evaluation of Outcome Criteria**

Evaluate the effectiveness of drug therapy by confirming that patient goals and expected outcomes have been met (see “Planning”).