

2. BOWEL MOVEMENTS

GP's questions:

- a) Do you feel that you want to move your bowels but you can't?
- b) Can you tell me what your stool looks like?
- c) What colour is it?
- d) What about the consistency? Is it soft?
- e) Have you noticed any blood or mucus in your stool?
- f) Do you feel *bloated*/have any bloating when you are constipated?
- g) Do you have any problems with excessive *flatulence* or *belching*?
- h) Do you have *piles*/haemorrhoids?

Match the sentences which mean the same, repeat the questions:

- a) Is it actually painful to have a bowel movement?
- b) Have you ever tried taking any laxatives that you can get at a chemist's?
- c) Does your stomach ever feel *distended*?
- d) Do you have *wind* moving around in your bowels?
- e) Do you pass wind?
- f) Do you have a tendency towards flatulence?
- 1) Do you take anything for your bowels?
- 2) Do you ever suffer from excessive wind?
- 3) Do you break wind?
- 4) Does it hurt when you open your bowels?
- 5) Do you ever feel bloated when you are constipated?
- 6) Do you feel gassy? (*Am E*)

bloated – have an uncomfortable feeling in your stomach after eating or drinking too much
flatulence – too much wind (*Br E*) / gas (*Am E*) in your stomach or intestines = meteorism
belch, burp *coll.* – to let air from your stomach come out through your mouth in a noisy way
piles – *informal* haemorrhoids
distended – *formal* swollen
wind – *Br E* gas produced in your stomach that makes you feel uncomfortable; *Am E* gas
break wind – to let the gas in your stomach out through your anus = fart *impolite*