CLAIMS:

1. A solid formulation for oral administration as a solid, comprising:
   (a) 50 – 90 % w/w polyethylene glycol (PEG) having an average molecular weight within the range 2,000 to 10,000 Da; and
   (b) 10 – 40 % w/w of a solid.

2. A solid formulation for oral administration as a solid, comprising:
   (a) 50 – 90 % w/w polyethylene glycol (PEG) having an average molecular weight within the range 2,000 to 10,000 Da; and
   (b) 10 – 40 % w/w of a solid selected from the group; sorbitol, lactose, dextrates, cellulose, xylitol, maltitol, mannitol.

3. A solid formulation of claim 2 wherein the group further comprises lactose and starch (e.g. a compound comprising lactose monohydrate and maize starch such as Starlac®).

4. A solid formulation for oral administration as a solid, comprising:
   (a) 50 – 90 % w/w polyethylene glycol (PEG) having an average molecular weight within the range 2,000 to 10,000 Da; and
   (b) 10 – 40 % w/w of a solid selected from sorbitol, lactose, lactose and starch (e.g. a compound comprising lactose monohydrate and maize starch such as Starlac®), dextrates, cellulose, xylitol, maltitol and mannitol.

5. A solid formulation of any preceding claim comprising 82 to 84 % w/w PEG.

6. A solid formulation of any preceding claim comprising 10 to 20 % w/w of solid of component (b).

7. A solid formulation of any preceding claim wherein the solid of component (b) is mannitol, (for example granular mannitol), xylitol, lactose and starch, or sorbitol.

8. A solid formulation of claim 7 wherein the solid of component (b) is mannitol, for example granular mannitol.

9. A solid formulation of any preceding claim wherein the PEG has an average molecular weight of between 3,000 and 4,100 Da.

10. A solid formulation of claim 9 wherein the PEG has an average molecular weight within the range 3,000 to 4,000 Da.

11. A solid formulation of any one of claims 1 to 8, comprising:

(a) 70 – 90 % w/w polyethylene glycol (PEG) having an average molecular weight within the range 2,000 to 10,000 Da;

(b) 10 – 20 % w/w of the solid such as mannitol;

(c) 0 – 2.0% w/w lubricant; and

(d) 0 – 2.0% w/w flavouring.

12. A solid formulation of any preceding claim, comprising PEG and mannitol in a weight ratio of PEG : mannitol = 3:1 to 9:1.

13. A solid formulation of any preceding claim comprising a lubricant in an amount of 2.0% w/w or less, for example 0.2 to 0.8% w/w, for example 0.5% w/w.

14. A solid formulation as claimed in claim 13 wherein the lubricant is magnesium stearate.

15. A solid formulation of any preceding claim comprising a flavouring.

16. A solid formulation as claimed in claim 15 wherein the flavouring is peppermint, preferably present at a level of 0.1 to 1 % w/w (e.g. 0.4% w/w), or raspberry-lemon, preferably present at a level of 0.5 to 2 % w/w (e.g. (1.5% w/w).

17. A solid formulation of any preceding claim that is substantially free from electrolytes (e.g. sodium chloride, potassium chloride, bicarbonates such as sodium bicarbonate, sulphates such as sodium sulphate, or phosphates).

18. A solid formulation of any preceding claim that has a mass of 0.5 to 10g, for example 1.0 to 5.0g.

19. A solid formulation as claimed in claim 18 that has a mass of 2.0 to 3.5g and comprises:

(a) 1.00 – 3.15g polyethylene glycol (PEG) having an average molecular weight within the range 2,000 to 10,000;

(b) 0.20 – 1.40g mannitol.

20. A solid formulation as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 19 that comprises;

(a) 2273 to 2284mg polyethylene glycol (PEG) having an average molecular weight within the range 3,000 to 4,000 Da;

(b) 420 to 446mg of solid such as mannitol;

(c) 13.5 to 13.75mg magnesium stearate; and

(d) 11 to 42mg flavour, such as peppermint or raspberry/lemon flavouring.

21. A solid formulation of any preceding claim which is chewable or suckable.

22. Use of a solid formulation of any preceding claim in the manufacture of a medicament for prevention of gastrointestinal disorders or maintaining gastrointestinal health for example, preventing dehydration of the stool, softening the stool for ease of defaecation, preventing constipation and allowing regular gastrointestinal transit in a subject (e.g. human).

23. The use of claim 22 wherein the subject is healthy (that is has normal bowel movement).

24. Use of a solid formulation as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 21 in the manufacture of a medicament for non-therapeutically preventing gastrointestinal disorders or for maintaining gastrointestinal health in a subject (e.g. human).

25. A solid formulation as claimed in any one of claim 1 to 21 or the use as claimed in claim 24 wherein the subject (e.g. human) consumes a sufficient amount of formulation to receive up to 6g (or thereabout) per day of PEG.

26. The use according to claim 25 wherein the use is to be performed daily or every other day (i.e. alternate day).

27. A chewable or suckable solid formulation for oral administration as a solid comprising;

(a) 2.0 to 3.5g PEG (for example 2.1 to 2.5g) having an average molecular weight of 3000 to 4000 Da;

(b) 250 to 500mg (for example 420 to 450mg) of a solid such as mannitol;

(c) optional flavouring which if present is in an amount of 5 to 75mg;

(d) optional lubricant such as magnesium stearate which if present is in an amount of 5 to 25mg.

28. Use of a formulation of claim 27 in the manufacture of a medicament for preventing dehydration of the stool, softening the stool for ease of defecation, preventing constipation, allowing regular gastrointestinal transit.

29. The use of claim 28 together with instructions for use in preventing dehydration of the stool, softening the stool for ease of defecation, preventing constipation, allowing regular gastrointestinal transit.

30. A pack comprising a plurality of units of solid formulations according to any one of claims 1 to 23, 25 or 27 to 29.

31. The pack of claim 30 comprising 5 or more (such as 10), 10 or more (such as 20) or 20 or more (such as 30) units of the solid formulation.

32. The pack of claim 30 or 31 wherein the pack is a blister pack, tube or bag.

CLAIMS:

1. A solid formulation for oral administration as a solid, comprising:
   (a) 50 – 90 % w/w polyethylene glycol (PEG) having an average molecular weight within the range 2,000 to 10,000 Da; and
   (b) 10 – 40 % w/w of a solid selected from the group; sorbitol, lactose, dextrates, cellulose, xylitol, maltitol, mannitol.

2. A solid formulation of claim 1 wherein the group further comprises lactose and starch.

3. A solid formulation of any preceding claim comprising 82 to 84 % w/w PEG.

4. A solid formulation of any preceding claim comprising 10 to 20 % w/w of solid of component (b).

5. A solid formulation of any preceding claim wherein the solid of component (b) is selected from the group: mannitol, , xylitol, lactose and starch, and sorbitol.

6. A solid formulation of claim 5 wherein the solid of component (b) is mannitol.

7. A solid formulation of claim 6 wherein the solid of component (b) is granular mannitol.

8. A solid formulation of any preceding claim wherein the PEG has an average molecular weight of between 3,000 and 4,100 Da.

9. A solid formulation of claim 8 wherein the PEG has an average molecular weight within the range 3,000 to 4,000 Da.

10. A solid formulation of any one of claims 1 to 7, comprising:

(a) 70 – 90 % w/w polyethylene glycol (PEG) having an average molecular weight within the range 2,000 to 10,000 Da;

(b) 10 – 20 % w/w of the solid;

(c) 0 – 2.0% w/w lubricant; and

(d) 0 – 2.0% w/w flavouring.

11. A solid formulation of any preceding claim, comprising PEG and mannitol in a weight ratio of PEG : mannitol = 3:1 to 9:1.

12. A solid formulation of any preceding claim comprising a lubricant in an amount of 2.0% w/w or less.

13. A solid formulation of claim 12 wherein the lubricant is present in an amount of 0.2 to 0.8% w/w.

14. A solid formulation of claim 13 wherein the lubricant is present in an amount of 0.5% w/w.

15. A solid formulation as claimed in any one of claims 12 to 14 wherein the lubricant is magnesium stearate.

16. A solid formulation of any preceding claim comprising a flavouring.

17. A solid formulation of any preceding claim that is substantially free from electrolytes.

18. A solid formulation of claim 17 that is substantially free from sodium chloride, potassium chloride, bicarbonates, sulphates, or phosphates.

19. A solid formulation of any preceding claim that has a mass of 0.5 to 10g.

20. A solid formulation of any preceding claim that has a mass of 1.0 to 5.0g.

21. A solid formulation as claimed in claim 19 or 20 that has a mass of 2.0 to 3.5g and comprises:

(a) 1.00 – 3.15g polyethylene glycol (PEG) having an average molecular weight within the range 2,000 to 10,000;

(b) 0.20 – 1.40g mannitol.

22. A solid formulation as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 21 that comprises;

(a) 2273 to 2284mg polyethylene glycol (PEG) having an average molecular weight within the range 3,000 to 4,000 Da;

(b) 420 to 446mg of solid;

(c) 13.5 to 13.75mg magnesium stearate; and

(d) 11 to 42mg flavour.

23. Use of a solid formulation of any preceding claim in the manufacture of a medicament for prevention of gastrointestinal disorders or maintaining gastrointestinal health.

24. The use of claim 23, for preventing dehydration of the stool, softening the stool for ease of defaecation, preventing constipation and allowing regular gastrointestinal transit in a subject.

25. The use of claim 22 or claim 23 wherein the subject is healthy (that is has normal bowel movement).

26. The use of claim 25, for delaying or reducing the frequency of episodes of constipation or preventing the onset of constipation.

27. The use of any one of claims 23 to 26 wherein formulation is to be administered in an amount of up to 6g per day of PEG.

28. A chewable or suckable solid formulation for oral administration as a solid comprising;

(a) 2.0 to 3.5g PEG (for example 2.1 to 2.5g) having an average molecular weight of 3000 to 4000 Da;

(b) 250 to 500mg (for example 420 to 450mg) of a solid selected from the group: sorbitol, lactose, dextrates, cellulose, xylitol, maltitol, mannitol.

29. A chewable or suckable solid formulation according to claim 28, further comprising flavouring in an amount of 5 to 75mg.

30. A chewable or suckable solid formulation according to claim 28 or claim 29, further comprising lubricant in an amount of 5 to 25mg.

31. Use of a formulation of any one of claims 28 to 30 in the manufacture of a medicament for preventing dehydration of the stool, softening the stool for ease of defecation, preventing constipation, allowing regular gastrointestinal transit.

32. A pack comprising a plurality of units of solid formulations according to any one of claims 1 to 22 and 28 to 30.

33. The pack of claim 32 comprising 5 or more, 10 or more or 20 or more units of the solid formulation.

34. The pack of claim 32 or 33 wherein the pack is a blister pack or tube or bag.