

HEALTHEAST MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION
MEDICAL OPERATIONS MANUAL

DIPHENHYDRAMINE (BENADRYL)

Drug Classification: Antihistamine

BACKGROUND

Pharmacodynamics

- Binds to and blocks H1 histamine receptors.

Indications

- Anaphylaxis as an adjunct to epinephrine
- Allergic reaction
- Extrapyramidal symptoms (Parkinsonian-like, thick tongue, neck distortion) following administration of an antipsychotic medication.

Contraindications

- Allergy or known hypersensitivity to the medication
- Acute asthma attack
- Newborn or premature infant

Cautions

- Benadryl has an atropine-like action, therefore use with caution in patients with bronchial asthma, hyperthyroidism, cardiovascular disease, hypertension, and COPD
- Use cautiously in children, as over dosage may cause hallucinations, convulsions, or death.

DOSAGE and ADMINISTRATION

ADULT	PEDIATRICS (less than 60 kg)
1. Administer 50 mg IV/IO (rate not to exceed 25 mg/minute) or deep IM.	1. Administer 1 mg/kg IV/IO (rate not to exceed 25 mg/minute) or deep IM.

ADVERSE REACTIONS/SIDE EFFECTS

- Drowsiness, sedation, dizziness, headache, blurred vision, nausea, vomiting, palpitations, thickening of bronchial secretions, hypotension

NOTES

REFERENCE GUIDELINE

5A Allergic Reaction/Anaphylaxis