



El Dorado County Emergency Medical Services Agency

Quick Reference

Revised Date: July 27, 2023

Medication Profile

DIPHENHYDRAMINE

(Benadryl)

Class:

Antihistamine

Action:

Competes with histamine at receptor sites.

Reverses muscle spasms associated with dystonic reactions (phenothiazine).

Onset: IV/IO: 1-5min IM/PO: 15 minutes

Duration: 3-4 hours

Adult Administration:

- **Allergic Reaction/Anaphylaxis:** 50mg IV/IO/IM or PO.
- **Dystonic Reaction:** 50mg IV/IO/IM (*IV/IO preferred*)

Pediatric Administration:

1mg/kg slow IV/IO/IM or PO (Max 25mg)

Indications:

- Allergic Reaction
- Muscle spasms associated with dystonic reaction.

Contraindications:

- Acute asthma
- Glaucoma
- COPD

Side Effects:

- Hypotension
- Drowsiness
- Tachycardia
- Bradycardia
- Dry Mouth

Pregnancy:

Category B

Notes:

- May cause depressed level of consciousness in elderly patients.
- Overdose may result in seizures, coma, and death.

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This document is not a substitute for Protocols and Procedures.

Effective Date: September 1, 2020