



El Dorado County Emergency Medical Services Agency

Quick Reference

Revised Date: July 1, 2020

Medication Profile

Activated Charcoal

(Charcoal Slurry)

Class:

Chemical Adsorbant

Action:

Inhibits gastrointestinal absorption of drugs or chemicals

Onset: Immediate

Peak: Immediate

Duration: 24 Hours

Adult Administration:

50 grams (250ml) PO

Pediatric Administration:

25 grams (125ml, half the contents of the bottle) unless a large quantity of intoxicant has been ingested, and where there is risk of life. In these circumstances, administer 50 grams (250ml).

Indications:

Suspected overdose,
Accidental ingestion of drugs or chemicals

Contraindications:

Altered level of consciousness
No gag reflex
Ingestion of caustic, corrosives, or
petroleum distillates

Side Effects:

RESP: Possible aspiration
GI: Nausea, Vomiting

Pregnancy:

Not established

Notes:

- Milk products ingested prior to activated charcoal can reduce its effectiveness