

Subject: ALS Medication Administration – Paramedic
Diphenhydramine Hydrochloride (Benadryl)

- I. Class
 - Antihistamine.
- II. Indications
 - A. Severe allergic reactions.
 - B. Anaphylactic shock.
 - C. Acute dystonic reactions.
 - D. Phenothiazine extrapyramidal reaction.
 - E. Motion sickness.
- III. Therapeutic Effects
 - A. Relief of symptoms associated with excess histamine.
 - B. Sedative.
 - C. Relief of dystonic reactions from medications.
 - D. Prevention of motion sickness.
- IV. Contraindications
 - A. Absolute
 - 1. Hypersensitivity.
 - 2. Acute asthma.
 - B. Relative
 - 1. Presence of alcohol or other depressants
- V. Administration and Dosage
 - A. Adult
 - 1. 25-50 mg IV/IO slowly or IM.
 - B. Pediatric
 - 1. 1-2 mg/kg IV, IM or IO slowly.
- VI. Special Information
 - A. Adverse Effects can include dose-related drowsiness, hypotension, palpitations, tachycardia or bradycardia, and can cause excitation in children.
 - B. Adverse effects can increase with geriatric patients, using the lowest dose in range.
 - C. When used to prevent motion sickness, use the lowest dose in range.
- VII. Base Order
 - Standing Order if no contraindications exist.