

Medication: Diphenhydramine	PDN: 6924.02	Last Updated: May 23, 2013	PMD: Andrew Travers*	PDC: Steven Carrigan*	Page 1 of 1
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DIPHENHYDRAMINE (Benadryl)

1.0 Classification

- Antihistamine

2.0 Mechanism of Action

- Blocks histamine receptor sites and prevents the effects of histamine, reducing bronchoconstriction, vasodilation, and edema

3.0 Indications

- Allergic reactions involving respiratory distress, airway swelling (lips, tongue, etc.), abnormal vital signs, edema, itching, or urticaria/hives

4.0 Contraindications

- None

5.0 Precautions

- None

6.0 Route

- May be given IV or IM

7.0 Dosage

Adult

- 25-50 mg given once; give 25 mg for patients over 60 years of age

Pediatric

- 1 mg/kg (maximum 25 mg) given once

8.0 Supplied

- 1 mL vial of 50 mg/mL

9.0 May Be Given By

- PCP/ICP/ACP/CCP

10.0 Adverse effects

- Drowsiness
- Decreased blood pressure
- Reflex tachycardia

11.0 Special notes

- Pregnancy category B [if there is a clinical need for it, Category B drugs are considered safe to use]

12.0 References

- Allergic Reactions Clinical Practice Guideline
- Compendium of Pharmaceuticals and Specialties (CPS)

*Electronically Signed
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