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)