



Yolo County Emergency Medical Services Agency

Quick Reference

Revised Date: June 1, 2023

Medication Profile

Diphenhydramine HCL

(Benadryl)

Class:

Antihistamine

Action:

Diphenhydramine is an antihistamine with anticholinergic (drying) and sedative side effects. Suppresses an allergic reaction by blocking histamine H1 and H2 receptor sites. Indicated for conditions of excess histamine. Does not reverse histamine-mediated responses. Also, slight sedative, antiemetic, antitussive and antispasmodic effects.

Onset: IV-Immediate
IM 20-30 minutes
PO 15-30 minutes

Peak: 1-4-hours

Duration: 4-8 hours

Indications:

Allergic reaction, anaphylaxis
Dystonic Reaction

Contraindications:

Hypersensitivity/allergy

Side Effects:

CV: Palpitations, tachycardia, hypotension or hypertension
CNS: Drowsiness, headache, restlessness, disturbs coordination
RESP: Dries and thickens bronchial secretions, wheezing
GI: Dry mouth, nausea, vomiting
EENT: Blurred vision, tinnitus

Notes:

- Added CNS depressant effects may occur with alcohol, sedatives, hypnotics, tranquilizers, and narcotics.

This document is not a substitute for Protocols and Procedures.

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