



**El Dorado County Emergency Medical
Services Agency**
Quick Reference

Revised Date: July 1, 2020

Medication Profile

DIPHENHYDRAMINE

(Benadryl)

Class:

Antihistamine

Action:

Competes with histamines at receptor sites.

Reverses muscle spasms associated with dystonic reactions (phenothiazine).

Onset: IV/IO: 1-5min IM/PO: 15 minutes

Duration: 3-4 hours

Adult Administration:

- **Allergic Reaction/Anaphylaxis:** 50mg IV/IO/IM or PO.
- **Dystonic Reaction:** 25mg IV/IO/IM or PO.

Pediatric Administration:

1mg/kg slow IV/IO/IM or PO (Max 25mg)

Indications:

Allergic Reaction
Muscle spasms associated with
dystonic reactions Acute asthma

Contraindications:

Glaucoma
Acute asthma
COPD

Side Effects:

- Hypotension
- Drowsiness
- Tachycardia
- Bradycardia
- Dry Mouth

Pregnancy:

Category B

Notes:

- May cause depressed level of consciousness in elderly patients.
- Overdose may result in seizures, coma, and death.