

## DIPHENHYDRAMINE (Benadryl)

### **ACTION: Antihistamine**

- Antagonizes effects of histamine in allergy.
- Decreases itching, edema, bronchoconstriction and vasodilation.
- Antagonizes acetylcholine receptors resulting in resolution of dystonia caused by antipsychotic medications.

### **INDICATIONS:**

- Anaphylaxis.
- Allergic reactions.
- Dystonic (extrapyramidal) neuromuscular reactions.

### **CONTRAINDICATIONS:**

- Diphenhydramine can potentiate other CNS depressants
- Relative contraindication in pregnant or lactating females

### **POTENTIAL SIDE EFFECTS:**

- Drowsiness and sedation
- Hypotension
- Palpitations
- Tachycardia
- Headache or blurred vision
- Anticholinergic effects

### **ADULT DOSE/ROUTE:**

⇒ 25 - 50 mg IVP, IM or IO (up to max. 50 mg).

### **PEDIATRIC DOSE/ROUTE:**

⇒ 1 mg/kg IVP, IO or IM (up to max. 25 mg).

### **NOTES:**

- Consider IM administration of Diphenhydramine in patients who are perfusing well.
- Consider IV administration of Diphenhydramine with severe allergic reactions/anaphylaxis.