

SODIUM BICARBONATE

ACTION: Alkalinizing Agent

- Acts as a buffering agent when administered to neutralize hydrogen ions resulting in carbon dioxide as a byproduct.
- Alkalinization of blood results in shifting of potassium into the intracellular space, lowering serum potassium levels.

INDICATIONS:

- Known or suspected hyperkalemia or in patients with known renal failure.
- Cardiac arrests associated with tricyclic antidepressants or phenobarbital overdose.

CONTRAINDICATIONS:

- When used for situations above—none

POTENTIAL SIDE EFFECTS:

- Hypotension
- Headache and flushing
- Syncope
- Tachycardia
- Alkalosis
- Fluid overload

ADULT DOSE/ROUTE:

- ⇒ **Suspected Hyperkalemia / QRS widening from Tricyclic Antidepressant Overdose:**
1mEq/kg IV/IO. May repeat 0.5mEq/kg q 10 min to total of 2mEq/kg.

PEDIATRIC DOSE/ROUTE:

- ⇒ **Suspected Hyperkalemia or QRS widening from Tricyclic Antidepressant:** 1mEq/kg IV/IO.
May repeat 0.5mEq/kg q 10 min to total of 2mEq/kg.
- ⇒ **If <2 years,** dilute bicarb 1:1 with sterile water.

NOTES:

- IV lines should be flushed thoroughly before administration of other medications to avoid precipitation.