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.

INDICATION	ADULT	PEDIATRIC
1. **Anaphylaxis** 2. Other **allergic reaction** 3. **Extrapyramidal symptoms,** including antipsychotic-induced dystonia	25 – 50 mg IVP/IO/IM IM preferred if perfusing well. IV preferred if anaphylaxis or other severe allergic reaction.	1 mg/kg IVP/IO/IM up to 25 mg IM preferred if perfusing well. IV preferred if anaphylaxis or other severe allergic reaction.

CONTRAINDICATIONS:

- Relative contraindication in pregnant or lactating females

POTENTIAL SIDE EFFECTS:

- Drowsiness and sedation
- Hypotension
- Palpitations
- Potentiation of other CNS depressants
- Tachycardia
- Headache or blurred vision
- Anticholinergic effects

NOTES:

- In anaphylaxis, do not delay administration of epinephrine; administer diphenhydramine after epinephrine.