

**Seminole Community College**  
**Medication Handout #17a**  
**Diphenhydramine / Methylprednisolone / Tagamet / Pepcid**

**Diphenhydramine (Benadryl) Antihistamine**

**Description-** Diphenhydramine blocks histamine release, thereby reducing bronchoconstriction, vasodilation, and edema.

**Indications-** Anaphylaxis, allergic reactions, and dystonic reactions.

**Contraindications-** Asthma and other lower respiratory diseases.

**Precautions-** May induce hypotension, headache, palpitations, tachycardia, sedation, drowsiness, and / or disturbed coordination.

**Dosage / Route-** 25 to 50 mg IV / IM

**Methylprednisolone (Solumedrol) Corticosteroid / Antiinflammatory**

**Description-** Methylprednisolone is a synthetic adrenal corticosteroid, effective as an anti-inflammatory and used in the management of allergic reactions and in some cases of shock. It is sometimes used in the treatment of spinal cord injury.

**Indications-** Spinal cord injury, asthma, severe anaphylaxis, COPD.

**Contraindications-** No major contraindications in the emergency setting.

**Precautions-** Only a single dose should be given in the pre-hospital setting.

**Dosage / Route-** Asthma / COPD / Anaphylaxis

Adult- 125 to 250 mg IV / IM

Pediatric- 1 to 2 mg / kg / dose IV / IM

Spinal Cord Injury

30 mg / kg IV over 15 minutes, after 45 minutes an infusion at 5.4 mg / kg / hour

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## Cimetidine (Tagamet<sup>®</sup>)

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◆ **Pharmacologic properties/ action(s):**

- Histamine H<sub>2</sub>-receptor antagonist
- Cimetidine (Tagamet) competitively inhibits the action of histamine at the histamine H<sub>2</sub>-receptors. This antihistamine property functions to inhibit gastric acid secretion, and to inhibit the action of histamine from contributing to anaphylactoid reactions and/or anaphylaxis.

◆ **Indications:**

- Allergic/ Anaphylactic Reactions in adult and pediatric patients
  - Cimetidine is indicated even in the presence of hypotension.

◆ **Contraindications:**

- Known hypersensitivity

◆ **Precautions/ side effects:**

- Rare instances of arrhythmias and hypotension have been reported following rapid IV bolus.

◆ **Dosage/ administration:**

- Adult:
  - 300 mg Intravenous PiggyBack (IVPB) over 5-10 minutes
    - ◆ Administer IM if unable to obtain IV access
- Pediatric:
  - 5-10 mg/kg (max 300 mg) IV over 5-10 minutes or IM

◆ **How Supplied:**

- 300 mg/2 cc vials

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## Famotidine (Pepcid<sup>®</sup>)

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◆ **Pharmacologic properties/ action(s):**

- Histamine H<sub>2</sub>-receptor antagonist
- Famotidine (Pepcid) competitively inhibits the action of histamine at the histamine H<sub>2</sub>-receptors. This antihistamine property functions to inhibit gastric acid secretion, and to inhibit the action of histamine from contributing to anaphylactoid reactions and/or anaphylaxis.

◆ **Indications:**

- Allergic/ Anaphylactic Reactions in adult and pediatric patients
  - Famotidine is indicated even in the presence of hypotension.

◆ **Contraindications:**

- Known hypersensitivity

◆ **Precautions/ side effects:**

- Rare instances of arrhythmias and hypotension have been reported following rapid IV bolus.

◆ **Dosage/ administration:**

- Adult:
  - 20 mg Intravenous Piggyback (IVPB) over 5-10 minutes
    - ◆ Administer IM if unable to obtain IV access
- Pediatric:
  - 0.5 mg/kg (maximum 20 mg) IV over 5-10 minutes or IM

◆ **How Supplied:**

- 20 mg/2 cc vials