Classification
- Antihistamine

Prehospital Indications
- Allergic Reaction: itching and/or hives
- Dystonic Reaction

Other Common Indications
- Over-the-counter sleep aid, prevention or treatment of motion sickness, nausea and vomiting
- Mild Parkinson's disease
- Prevention of extrapyramidal symptoms in patients on antipsychotic medications

Adult Dose
- 50mg slow IV push or 50mg IM, may repeat in 15 min x1, total maximum dose 100mg

Pediatric Dose
- 1mg/kg slow IV push one time, dose per MCG 1309, if unable to obtain venous access 1mg/kg deep IM, dose per MCG 1309

Mechanism of Action
- Histamine H1- receptor antagonist of effector cells in respiratory tract, blood vessels, and GI smooth muscle. Possesses anticholinergic properties, resulting in antidyskinetic properties.

Pharmacokinetics
- Onset is 15-30 min, duration is < 10 min

Contraindications
- Acute asthma attack

Interactions
- Increase central nervous system depression when used with alcohol and other central nervous system depressants, or MAO inhibitors

Adverse Effects
- Confusion
- Drowsiness
- Mild hypotension
- Palpitation
- Paradoxical excitement in children
- Tachycardia
- Wheezing

Prehospital Considerations
- Administer injection deep IM into a large muscle group (lateral thigh, gluteus).
- Diphenhydramine (Benadryl) does not treat anaphylaxis/airway edema; if signs of anaphylaxis present, administer epinephrine IM
- Use with caution in elderly as they have increased adverse effects such as confusion, drowsiness
- Use with caution on all patients with a history of asthma.
- May cause paradoxical agitation in pediatric patients.