Medical Control Guideline: DRUG REFERENCE – ONDANSETRON **Ref. No. 1317.34**

Classification
Antiemetic

LA County Prehospital Indications
Multiple provider impressions: Nausea and/or vomiting, or prior to fentanyl or morphine administration to reduce potential for nausea/ vomiting

Other Common Indications (Not authorized for EMS administration in LA County)
None

Adult Dose
4 mg ODT or 4 mg (2mL) IV/IM, may repeat x1 in 15 min prn

Pediatric Dose
0.15mg/kg (2mg/mL) IV/IM, or
4 mg ODT, ODT route is only for 4 years of age or older

Mechanism of Action
The mechanism of action is not fully understood. It is believed to block serotonin receptors (5-HT3) in both the GI tract and the brain's vomiting control center (within the medulla), reducing nausea and vomiting.

Pharmacokinetics
Onset is 1-5 min; duration is 4-6 hr

Contraindications
Known allergy to Ondansetron
Pregnancy, regardless of gestational age
Less than 6-months-old

Interactions
Amiodarone and other QT prolonging drugs (additive prolongation of QT may produce torsade de pointes/polymorphic ventricular tachycardia)

Adverse Effects
Constipation
Headache
QT prolongation
Sedation

Prehospital Considerations
- May cause prolonged QT interval. Caution in patients with known prolonged QT syndrome or recent/simultaneous use of other QT-prolonging drugs.
- Should not be administered in patients known to be pregnant, regardless of gestational age.
- Peak activity is decreased by approximately 40% in oral administration, compared to IV, due to first pass metabolism in the liver.