

# Diphenhydramine Intravenous for Adults

## Who can administer

May be administered by registered competent doctor or nurse/midwife

## Important information

- Unlicensed medication
- Intended use is for (primarily) Haem/Onc patients experiencing a hypersensitivity reaction who require an IV antihistamine whilst chlorphenamine IV is temporarily unavailable (product shortage)

## Available preparations

Diphenhydramine Hydrochloride injection, USP 50mg /1 ml (Hikma Pharmaceuticals USA Inc.)

## Reconstitution

Already in solution

## Infusion fluids

Sodium chloride 0.9%

## Methods of intravenous administration

**Slow intravenous injection** (treatment of a hypersensitivity reaction)

- Can dilute with Sodium chloride 0.9% to produce a suitable volume
- Administer at a maximum rate of 25mg per minute

**Intermittent intravenous infusion** (prevention of hypersensitivity reactions)

- Add required dose to 50mL infusion fluid and administer over 15 minutes (ref 1)

## Dose in adults

### Usual dose

- Give 10 to 50mg at a rate generally not exceeding 25mg per minute
- Maximum daily dose is 400mg

## Monitoring

- May cause drowsiness and has an additive effect with alcohol
- More likely to cause dizziness, sedation and hypotension in elderly patients

## Storage

Protect from light - keep covered in carton until time of use

Store at 20-25°C, excursions permitted to 15-30°C

## References

SPC: Diphenhydramine Hydrochloride injection, USP 50mg/ml (Hikma Pharmaceuticals USA Inc.)

1. BCCA reference attached (management of infusion related reactions)

## Therapeutic classification

Antihistamine