

GD-085-PHS-EMS: Drug Profile for Famotidine

This is the Arizona Department of Health Services' recommendation for the use of this drug in the prehospital setting.

GENERIC NAME:

FAMOTIDINE

CLASS: GI-Anti Ulcer

Mechanism of Action:

Competitively inhibits action of histamine at the H₂ at receptor sites of parietal cells, decreasing gastric acid secretion.

Indications and Field Use:

Infusion monitoring during interfacility transport only.
Hospitalized patients who cannot take oral drug or who have intractable ulceration or hypersecretory conditions.

Contraindications:

Hypersensitivity to drug

Adverse Reactions:

CV: Palpitations, flushing
EENT: Tinnitus, orbital edema
GI: Diarrhea, constipation, anorexia, taste perversion, dry mouth
Other: Transient irritant at IV site
Children less than 1 year of age may have vomiting and agitation

NOTES ON ADMINISTRATION

Incompatibilities/Drug Interactions:

None significant

Adult Dosage:

20mg in 50 mL normal saline IV every 12 hours infuse over 15-30 minutes

Pediatric Dosage:

Safety and efficacy of IV infusion of drug have not been established.

Routes of Administration:

IV infusion – Piggy back

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Onset of Action:

1 hour

Peak Effects:

1-4 hours

Duration of Action:

12 hours

Special Notes:

Assess patients for abdominal pain. Note blood in emesis, stool, or gastric aspirate.