

Activated Charcoal (Sorbitol)

Formulary

Douglas County Kansas EMS System

March 2021

Approved Provider: EMT, AEMT, Paramedic

Reference Protocols: [Drug Overdose/ Poisoning](#)

Dosing and Administration	
<u>ADULT Medications:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 50 grams PO	<u>PEDIATRIC Medications:</u> Refer to HandTevy <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1gm/kg PO (Max of 50 grams)

Pharmacology and Actions:

- Charcoal is an absorbent compound that absorbs toxins by binding the toxins in the stomach. Once bound, the toxins are inactive then excreted

Indications:

- Ingested poisonings within 30 minutes to one hour of Ingestion
- Only for potentially toxic doses

Contraindications:

- Decreased LOC
- Decreased Gag reflex

Precautions:

- In patients with decreased LOC, Charcoal should only be administered via lavage or NG tube to protect airway
- Shake thoroughly to insure charcoal residue is in suspension and not left on bottom of bottle
- In PEDs (<1 yr) may experience an electrolyte imbalance due to diarrhea if charcoal with sorbitol is administered

Administration:

- P.O. in the conscious patient

Side Effects:

- None