

**Activated Charcoal (Sorbitol)**

Effective: 03/01/2021

Supersedes:  
N/A**Approved Provider:** EMT | AEMT | Paramedic**Reference Protocols:** [Drug Overdose/ Poisoning](#)**DOSING AND ADMINISTRATION****ADULT**

- 50 grams PO

**PEDIATRIC (Refer to Handtevy)**

- 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
- Concern for aspiration risk

**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