

# ACTIVATED CHARCOAL

## PHARMACOLOGY & MECHANISM OF ACTIONS:

- ❑ Adsorbent
- ❑ Helps prevent and reduce uptake of toxic substances ingested
- ❑ Forms an effective barrier between remaining particulate material and the gastrointestinal mucosa

## INDICATIONS:

- ❑ Management of oral poisoning or overdose in an alert patient with gag reflex present

## CONTRAINDICATIONS:

- ❑ Significantly reduced level of consciousness
- ❑ Inability of patient to protect airway
- ❑ Aspiration or impending aspiration

## ADMINISTRATION:

- ❑ **Obtain approval from Poison Control or OLMC prior to administration**
- ❑ **Be sure to shake contents thoroughly prior to administration.**

	ADULT	PEDIATRIC	
EMT	❑ 25 – 50 grams orally	❑ 1 gram/kg orally – (consult poison control prior to administration)	EMT
EMT - I	❑ May administer via OG tube if in place		EMT - I
PARAMEDIC	❑ May administer via NG/OG tube	❑ May administer via NG/OG tube	PARAMEDIC

## PRECAUTIONS & SIDE EFFECTS:

- ❑ Patient who is already vomiting represents an aspiration risk and will unlikely benefit from pre-hospital administration of charcoal.

## SPECIAL NOTES:

- ❑ Activated charcoal may be ineffective in mineral acids, petroleum products, or cyanide ingestions.
- ❑ Milk, ice cream and sherbet will decrease the ability of activated charcoal to adsorb other substances.