



Drug Therapy Protocols: Loratadine

Policy code	DTP_LOR_0722
Date	July, 2022
Purpose	To ensure a consistent procedural approach to loratadine administration.
Scope	Applies to all Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) clinical staff.
Health care setting	Pre-hospital assessment and treatment.
Population	Applies to all ages unless specifically mentioned.
Source of funding	Internal – 100%
Author	Clinical Quality & Patient Safety Unit, QAS
Review date	July, 2024
Information security	UNCLASSIFIED – Queensland Government Information Security Classification Framework.
URL	https://ambulance.qld.gov.au/clinical.html

While the QAS has attempted to contact all copyright owners, this has not always been possible. The QAS would welcome notification from any copyright holder who has been omitted or incorrectly acknowledged.

All feedback and suggestions are welcome. Please forward to: Clinical.Guidelines@ambulance.qld.gov.au

Disclaimer

The Digital Clinical Practice Manual is expressly intended for use by appropriately qualified QAS clinicians when performing duties and delivering ambulance services for, and on behalf of, the QAS.

The QAS disclaims, to the maximum extent permitted by law, all responsibility and all liability (including without limitation, liability in negligence) for all expenses, losses, damages and costs incurred for any reason associated with the use of this manual, including the materials within or referred to throughout this document being in any way inaccurate, out of context, incomplete or unavailable.

© State of Queensland (Queensland Ambulance Service) 2022.



This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives V4.0 International License

You are free to copy and communicate the work in its current form for non-commercial purposes, as long as you attribute the State of Queensland, Queensland Ambulance Service and comply with the licence terms. If you alter the work, you may not share or distribute the modified work. To view a copy of this license, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/deed.en>

For copyright permissions beyond the scope of this license please contact: Clinical.Guidelines@ambulance.qld.gov.au

Loratadine

July, 2022

Drug class

Antihistamine (less sedating) ^[1]

Pharmacology

Loratadine is a long-acting, second generation peripheral histamine H₁-receptor antagonistic used to treat allergies.^[1]

Metabolism

Absorbed in the gastrointestinal tract with a rapid first-pass hepatic metabolism.^[1]

Indications

- **Symptomatic urticaria**
(without evidence of anaphylaxis)

Contraindications

- Allergy AND/OR Adverse Drug Reaction
- Anaphylaxis
- Patients less than 8 years of age

Precautions

- Severe hepatic impairment
- Increased risk of sedation and anticholinergic effects in older people

Side effects

- Drowsiness
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Nausea
- Dry mouth

Presentation

- Tablet, 10 mg *loratadine*

Onset (PO)	Duration (PO)	Half-life
1–2 hours	≈ 24 hours	≈ 8 hours

Schedule

- S2 (Therapeutic poisons).

Routes of administration

Per oral (PO)



Special notes

- Ambulance officers must only administer medications for the listed indications and dosing range. Any consideration for treatment outside the listed scope of practice requires mandatory approval via the *QAS Clinical Consultation and Advice Line*.
- May be administered with or without food.
- Antihistamines have no role in the treatment or prevention of respiratory or cardiovascular symptoms in anaphylaxis.

Adult dosages^[1]

Symptomatic urticaria (without evidence of anaphylaxis)



PO

10 mg
Single dose only.

Not to be administered within 24 hours of previous antihistamine administration unless approval gained from the QAS Clinical Consultation and Advice Line.

Paediatric dosages^[1]

Symptomatic urticaria (without evidence of anaphylaxis)



PO

≥ 8 years – **10 mg**
Single dose only.

Not to be administered within 24 hours of previous antihistamine administration unless approval gained from the QAS Clinical Consultation and Advice Line.

Note: QAS officers are **NOT** authorised to administer loratadine to paediatric patients presenting with symptomatic urticarial under the age of 8.