Epinephrine

MEDICATION

THE DRUG

Class: Sympathomimetic

Beta-1 effects: increased heart rate and contractility

Beta-2 effect: bronchodilation

USE IT FOR

- Bronchial asthma
- COPD exacerbation
- Anaphylactic shock
- Cardiac arrest

DON'T GIVE / CAUTION

- Contraindications (per page): conscious patients with underlying cardiovascular disease
- Hypertension (per page)
- Pregnancy (per page)
- Patients with tachyarrhythmias (per page)
- Precautions: protect from light; deactivated by alkaline solutions
- Monitor BP, pulse, ECG

DOSE

Adult: 1 mg of 1:1,000 — asthma, COPD, anaphylaxis (per page dose table)

Peds: [dose not stated in original text]

Repeat: Cardiac arrest: 1 mg of 1:10,000 (per page dose table)

WATCH FOR

- Tremors
- Headache
- Palpitations / tachycardia
- Anxiety

PEARLS

- Onset <15 min; peak 1-2 hrs; half-life 4-5 hrs (timing table, per page)

Take Home Message:

Epinephrine covers asthma, COPD, anaphylaxis, and arrest — 1 mg, with the concentration matched to the job (per page).