



# Jackson Hole Fire/EMS Operations Manual

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Title: **Medication Protocol:  
Ondansetron**

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## ONDANSETRON (Zofran) (Medication Protocol)

### EMT-INTERMEDIATE/AEMT

#### **STANDING ORDER**

### PARAMEDIC

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**CLASS:** Antiemetic

**PHARMACOLOGY/  
ACTIONS:** Ondansetron's mechanism of action has not been fully characterized. The released serotonin may stimulate the vagal afferents through the 5-HT<sub>3</sub> receptors and initiate the vomiting reflex. Ondansetron selectively antagonizes 5-HT<sub>3</sub> receptors. *(Zofran has limited effectiveness for motion sickness, consider diphenhydramine (Benadryl) for refractive nausea/vomiting in those settings).*

**ONSET/DURATION:** Onset 30 minutes for peak effect / Duration: 5 – 7 hours

**USE IN FIELD/  
INDICATIONS:**

- Nausea and vomiting prevention in adults and pediatrics
- Vertigo

**CONTRAINDICATIONS:** Hypersensitivity to drug/class (Kytril & Aloxi), gastric/abdominal surgery in pediatric patients

**SIDE EFFECTS:** Headache, dizziness, diarrhea, rash, agitation, prolonged QT interval

**DRUG INTERACTIONS:** Apomorphine, dronedarone

**ROUTE:** IV, IO, IM, SL (Oral Disintegrating Tablet)

DOSAGE:	ADULT	PEDIATRIC (<45 kg)
	<p>4 mg slow IV, IO, IM, may repeat x1 prn continued symptoms (consider Benadryl for refractory nausea/vomiting)</p> <p>or 4-8 mg SL (oral disintegrating tablet) if IV dosing is not immediately available.</p> <p>May administer an additional 4 mg IV/IO if symptoms do not resolve following SL administration.</p>	<p><b>1-12 yrs:</b> 0.1 mg/kg slow IV, IO, IM <b>&gt;12 yrs:</b> use adult IV, IO, IM dosing</p> <p>or 4 mg SL (oral disintegrating tablet) if IV dosing is not immediately available over 4 years. Half oral disintegrating tablet (2 mg SL) 1 year to 4 years.</p> <p>May administer additional IV/IO dose if symptoms do not resolve following SL administration.</p>

**PREGNANCY SAFETY:** Category B – unproven or unknown risk to fetus. **Generally considered safe in pregnancy.**

**COMMENTS:** Consider early in patients with spinal immobilization to decrease risk of vomiting and aspiration.  
Use caution in patients with severe liver disease, the dose should not exceed 8 mg in 24 hours.  
Not commonly used in patients < 1 years of age.