



# Jackson Hole Fire/EMS Operations Manual

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Title: **Medication Protocol: Dexamethasone**  
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## DEXAMETHASONE (DECADRON) (Medication Protocol)

### PARAMEDIC PROVIDERS

#### STANDING ORDER

**CLASS:** Glucocorticoid

**PHARMACOLOGY/ ACTIONS:** Long-acting synthetic steroid that suppresses acute and chronic inflammation

**ONSET/DURATION:** Onset: 1 Hour / Duration: 72 hours

**USE IN FIELD/ INDICATIONS:**

- Severe asthma exacerbation
- Anaphylaxis
- Emergency treatment of AMS, HACE, HAPE
- Adult/Pediatric Respiratory Emergencies (with suspected inflammatory component such as COPD, croup)

**RELATIVE CONTRAINDICATIONS:** **Diabetes, Hypertension, Ulcers, Severe infection**

**SIDE EFFECTS:**

- Hypertension, headache, edema, hyperglycemia, nausea, heartburn
- Possible Psychic disturbances with rapid IV push

**DRUG INTERACTIONS:** May inhibit antibody response to vaccines and toxoids

**ROUTE:** IV/IO, IM

**DOSAGE:** ADULT – 10 mg

PEDIATRIC (< 45 kg) – 0.6 mg/kg (max. 10 mg)

**PREGNANCY SAFETY:** Category C: give only if potential benefits justify risk to fetus