EPINEPHRINE (Adrenalin®)

Classification: Sympathomimetic agent (catecholamine)

Actions:
- Increases cardiac output due to increased inotropy, chronotropy, dromotropy, and AV conduction (Beta-1)
- Relaxes smooth muscles of the respiratory tract (Beta-2)
- Increases systolic blood pressure due to increased cardiac output (Beta-1) and vasoconstriction (Alpha)
- Increases coronary perfusion during CPR by increasing aortic diastolic pressure

Indication:
- Anaphylaxis
- Severe Respiratory distress with wheezes

Contraindications: None in above situations

Adverse Effects:
- Cardiovascular
  - Tachycardia
  - Hypertension
  - Chest pain
  - Palpitations
  - Ventricular fibrillation
- Neurological
  - Anxiety
  - Dizziness
  - Headache
  - Tremors
  - Seizures
- Gastrointestinal
  - Nausea/vomiting

Dosage Information:
- Adults: 0.3mg IM
- Pediatrics: 0.15 mg IM

Route of administration: IM

Onset: IM – 6-12 minutes

Duration: IM – 1-4 hours

Notes:
- Use epinephrine with caution in older patients. If patient is clearly in anaphylaxis, this is the drug of choice, even in older patients.
- Tachycardia is not a contraindication to epinephrine.