

POLICY: 554.52
TITLE: Dystonic Reactions to Phenothiazines

EFFECTIVE: 09/01/2026
REVIEW: 8/2028
SUPERCEDES:

APPROVAL SIGNATURES ON FILE IN EMS OFFICE

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DYSTONIC REACTIONS TO PHENOTHIAZINES

- I. AUTHORITY
Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9
- II. PURPOSE
To serve as a patient treatment standard for EMRs, EMTs, AEMTs, and Paramedics within their scope of practice.
- III. PROTOCOL

**Provider Key: F = First Responder/EMR E = EMT O = EMT Local Optional SOP
P = Paramedic A=Advanced EMT D = Base Hospital Physician Order Required**

	F	E	O	A	P	D
ASSESSMENT	X	X	X	X	X	
PULSE OXIMETRY: apply and monitor.		X	X	X	X	
CAPNOGRAPHY: apply and monitor.					X	
OXYGEN: if pulse oximetry <94% or signs of hypoperfusion or respiratory distress.	X	X	X	X	X	
ECG MONITOR: lead placement may be delegated. Treat as indicated.					X	
VASCULAR ACCESS: P - IV/IO, AEMT - IV only, rate as indicated.				X	X	
DIPHENHYDRAMINE: 25-50 mg IV/IO/IM titrated to relief of signs and symptoms. (FOR DYSTONIC REACTIONS ONLY).					X	
CONSIDER ACTIVATED CHARCOAL: 1 g/kg po if GCS is 15 or via NG tube if patient is intubated and oral ingestion has occurred within 60 minutes. (FOR OVERDOSE VIA INGESTION ONLY). AEMT - PO administration only.				X	X	
NASOGASTRIC TUBE: suction gastric contents only if patient is intubated and oral ingestion has occurred within 60 minutes. (FOR OVERDOSE VIA INGESTION ONLY).					X	

NOTE: Dystonic reactions to phenothiazines may occur at normal dosing levels and the induction of vomiting is not recommended