

POLICY: 554.52  
TITLE: Dystonic Reactions to Phenothiazines

EFFECTIVE: 07/01/2024 DRAFT  
REVIEW: 07/2027 DRAFT  
SUPERCEDES:

APPROVAL SIGNATURES ON FILE IN EMS OFFICE

PAGE: 1 of 1

## 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, AEMT<sup>2</sup>s, and Paramedics within their scope of practice.
- III. PROTOCOL  
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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 | <u>A</u> | P | D |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|---|----------|---|---|
| <b>ASSESSMENT</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | X | X | X | <u>X</u> | X |   |
| <b>PULSE OXIMETRY:</b> apply and monitor.                                                                                                                                                                                             |   | X | X | <u>X</u> | X |   |
| <b>CAPNOGRAPHY:</b> apply and monitor.                                                                                                                                                                                                |   |   |   |          | X |   |
| <b>OXYGEN:</b> if pulse oximetry <94% or signs of hypoperfusion or respiratory distress.                                                                                                                                              | X | X | X | <u>X</u> | X |   |
| <b>ECG MONITOR:</b> lead placement may be delegated. Treat as indicated.                                                                                                                                                              |   |   |   |          | X |   |
| <b>VASCULAR ACCESS:</b> <u>P</u> - IV/IO, <u>AEMT - IV only</u> , rate as indicated.                                                                                                                                                  |   |   |   | <u>X</u> | X |   |
| <b>DIPHENHYDRAMINE:</b> 25-50 mg IV/IO/IM titrated to relief of signs and symptoms. <b>(FOR DYSTONIC REACTIONS ONLY).</b>                                                                                                             |   |   |   |          | X |   |
| <b>CONSIDER ACTIVATED CHARCOAL:</b> 1 g/kg po if GCS is 15 or via NG tube if patient is intubated and oral ingestion has occurred within 60 minutes. <b>(FOR OVERDOSE VIA INGESTION ONLY).</b> <u>AEMT- P.O. administration only.</u> |   |   |   | <u>X</u> | X |   |
| <b>NASOGASTRIC TUBE:</b> suction gastric contents only if patient is intubated and oral ingestion has occurred within 60 minutes. <b>(FOR OVERDOSE VIA INGESTION ONLY).</b>                                                           |   |   |   |          | X |   |

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