



POLICY: 555.52
TITLE: Pediatric Dystonic Reactions to Phenothiazine Drugs

EFFECTIVE: 02/13/2019
REVIEW: 02/2024
SUPERCEDES:

APPROVAL SIGNATURES ON FILE IN EMS OFFICE

PEDIATRIC DYSTONIC REACTION TO PHENOTHIAZINE DRUGS

- I. AUTHORITY: Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9
- II. PURPOSE: To serve as the treatment standard for EMRs, EMTs, AEMTs and Paramedics within their scope of practice.
- III. PROTOCOL: History of ingestion of phenothiazine with restlessness (akathesias), muscle spasms of the neck, jaw and back, movement of eyeballs (oculogyric crisis), frightened, small pupils, facial grimace, protruding tongue, opisthotonus (back arching).

Phenothiazines are prescribed for their antiemetic and tranquilizing properties. Phenothiazines include: chlorpromazine (Thorazine), metoclopramide (Reglan), prochlorperazine (Compazine), promethazine (Phenergan and Atarax).

Another medication that can cause dystonic reactions include: haloperidol (Haldol).

NOTE: Phenothiazine reactions may occur at normal dosing levels and administration of charcoal is not necessary.

STANDING ORDERS

ASSESS	CAB
OXYGEN	Oxygen delivery as appropriate.
MONITOR	Treat rhythm as appropriate.
IV/IO ACCESS	TKO with microdrip tubing and volume control chamber.
DIPHENHYDRAMINE	1 mg/kg IV/IO push (maximum dose 25 mg) or IM if IV/IO access not promptly available. May repeat if needed.