

**COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGENCY**



Program Document: **Dystonic Reaction**

Policy Number: 8017.15

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Signature on File

EMS Medical Director

Signature on File

EMS Administrator

Purpose:

- A. To establish the treatment standard for patients with signs and symptoms of a dystonic reaction.
- B. A dystonic reaction occurs as an idiosyncratic reaction to a phenothiazine compound. Frequently, no clear history or medication use is available; therefore, this reaction should be treated based on its clinical presentation.
- C. Although diphenhydramine is used to treat this reaction, it is not an allergic reaction to the medication. The patient should be informed of this distinction. Dystonic reactions, which may require field treatment to alleviate patient discomfort, may present as the following:
 - 1. Facial grimacing with poor ability to voluntarily relax tensed facial muscles.
 - 2. Torticollis or twisted posturing of the neck.

Authority:

- A. California Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5
- B. California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9

Protocol:

BLS:

- 1. CAB's/ Routine Care- Supplemental O2 as necessary to maintain SPO2 > 94%. Use the lowest concentration and flow rate of O2 as possible.
- 2. Airway adjuncts as needed.
- 3. If possible, collect home medications and bring them to the emergency department with the patient.

ALS:

1. Establish vascular access.
2. Cardiac Monitoring
3. DIPHENHYDRAMINE- 50 mg IV (preferred) or IM
4. Monitor and reassess patient after administration of DIPHENHYDRAMINE