

APPROVED: SIGNATURE ON FILE IN EMS OFFICE  
Executive Director

SIGNATURE ON FILE IN EMS OFFICE  
Medical Director

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**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 EMT-Is and EMT-Ps in treating patients.
- 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) and promethazine (Phenergan and Atarax).

Other medications that can cause dystonic reactions include: droperidol (Inapsine) and haloperidol (Haldol).

**NOTE:** Phenothiazine reactions may occur at normal dosing levels. Activated charcoal is not necessary.

**STANDING ORDERS**

**ABC's**

**OXYGEN:**

**MONITOR:** Treat rhythm as appropriate.

**IV/IO ACCESS:** TKO

**DIPHENHYDRAMINE:** 50 mg IV push or IM if IV access not promptly available. May repeat if needed.

**BASE PHYSICIAN ORDERS**

**RELEASE-AT-SCENE** Competent adults with normal vital signs, blood sugar, and mental status 10 minutes after ALS intervention, may be released if a cause of their condition and its solution has been identified. Refer to Refusal of EMS Service Policy 570.35.