

	<b>COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO</b> EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGENCY	Document #	8017.11
	<u>PROGRAM DOCUMENT:</u> <b>Dystonic Reaction NEW FORMAT</b>	Draft Date:	10/26/94
		Effective:	11/01/16
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		Review:	05/01/18

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 EMS Medical Director

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 EMS Administrator

**Purpose:**

- A. To serve as treatment standard for Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics in treating 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 obtainable; 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 TREATMENT**

**ABC's / Routine Care-** Supplemental O2 as necessary to maintain SpO2 ≥ 94%. Use the lowest concentration and flow rate of O2 as possible. Airway adjuncts as needed.  
**Transport**

**ALS TREATMENT**

**IV Access** – Initiate Intravenous (IV) access with saline lock.  
**DIPHENHYDRAMINE-** 50 mg IV (preferred) or Intramuscular.