

	COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGENCY	Document #	8826.10
	PROGRAM DOCUMENT:	Initial Date:	12/10/01
	Medication Administration, MARK I Nerve Agent Antidote Kit	Last Approval Date:	11/01/16
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 EMS Medical Director

 EMS Administrator

Purpose:

- A. To serve as an advanced life support skill guideline for utilizing a MARK I Nerve Agent Antidote Kit.

Authority:

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

Guideline:

- A. Medication Administration, MARK I Nerve Agent Antidote Kit, involves the administration of Atropine (2 mg) and 2-PAM (Pralidoxime Chloride – 600 mg) via auto-injectors to a victim of nerve agent exposure.
- B. The Nerve Agent Antidote Kit, MARK I, is an antidote used by the U.S. Military in the treatment of nerve agent poisoning. Description: The MARK I kit consists of four separate components: the Atropine auto-injector, the 2-PAM auto-injector, the plastic clip, and the foam carrying case.
- C. Nerve Agents include Tabun (GA), Sarin (GB), Soman (GD), GF, and VX.

Indications:

- A. Nerve Agent Exposure to the eyes, respiratory tract, or skin.
- B. As per Nerve Agent Exposure Policy Document #8027.

Contraindications:

- A. Children under 40 Kg.

Relative Contraindications:

- A. Patients with poor muscle mass at injection site.
- B. Asymptomatic nerve agent exposure.

Equipment:

- A. MARK I Nerve Agent Antidote Kit.

Procedure:

- A. Position the patient on his or her side (recovery position).
- B. Determine number of previous MARK I Nerve Agent Antidote Kit administrations to patient for this exposure.

- C. Determine injection site.
 1. Thigh injection area – the thigh injection site is the area about one hand's width above the knee to one hand's width below the hip joint, into a large muscle and away from any bone.
 2. Buttocks - if the patient is thinly built, then the injections should be administered into the upper outer quarter (quadrant) of the buttocks to avoid injury to the femur.
- D. Position yourself near the injection site.
- E. With your non-dominant hand, hold the auto-injectors by the plastic clip so that the larger auto-injector (2-PAM) is on top and both are positioned in front of you at eye level.
- F. With your dominant hand, check the injection site (thigh or buttocks) for buttons or objects in pockets, which may interfere with the injections.
- G. With your dominant hand, grasp the Atropine auto-injector (the smaller of the two) with the thumb and first two fingers. DO NOT cover or hold the needle end with your hand, thumb, or finger, as this may lead to accidental injection.
- H. Pull the auto-injector out of the clip with a smooth motion. The auto-injector is now armed. DO NOT touch the needle end.
- I. Hold the auto-injector with your thumb and two fingers (pencil writing position). DO NOT touch the needle end.
- J. Position the green (needle) end of the auto-injector against the injection site (thigh or buttocks). DO NOT inject into areas near the hip, knee, or femur.
- K. Apply firm, even pressure (not a jabbing motion) to the auto-injector until it pushes the needle into the patient's thigh (or buttocks). Take care not to hit any objects in patient's pockets. Using a jabbing motion may result in an improper injection or injury.
- L. Hold the auto-injector firmly in place for at least ten (10) seconds.
- M. Carefully remove the Atropine auto-injector from the patient's injection site.
- N. Place the used auto-injector carefully between the little finger and ring finger of the hand that is holding the remaining auto-injector and the clip.
- O. Pull the 2-PAM auto-injector (the larger of the two) out of the clip and inject the patient in the same manner described in steps F through M, holding the black (needle) end against the injection site. DO NOT touch the needle end.
- P. Drop the clip without dropping the used auto-injectors.
- Q. Carefully set the used auto-injectors at the patient's side
- R. Repeat the above steps using the second and third sets of MARK I Nerve Agent Antidote Kits, as necessary.
- S. Document doses given as appropriate to the situation (on triage tag and / or patient care report) and dispose of discharged auto-injector in similar fashion as all used sharps.
- T. Massage the injection site if time permits.

Potential Complications:

- A. Over Atropinization.
- B. Accidental injection.
- C. Localized trauma at injection site from injection.

Drug Dosage and Administration:

Nerve Agent Exposure:

- A. Atropine - (2 mg) auto-injector and 2-PAM (Pralidoxime Chloride – 600 mg) auto-injector.
 1. Mild Exposure – administer one (1) Atropine auto-injector (2 mg) Intramuscular (IM) and one (1) 2-PAM auto-injector (600 mg) IM.

2. Moderate Exposure – administer two (2) Atropine auto-injectors (4 mg) IM and two (2) 2-PAM auto-injectors (1200 mg) IM.
3. Severe Exposure – administer three (3) Atropine auto-injectors (6 mg) IM and three (3) 2-PAM auto-injectors (1800 mg) IM.

Precautions and Special Considerations:

- A. It is important that the injections be given into a large muscle area. If the patient is thinly built, and has insufficient muscle mass in the outer thigh area, then the injections should be administered into the upper outer quarter (quadrant) of the buttocks to avoid injury to the femur. The outer quarter of the buttocks should be used to avoid potential nerve damage.
- B. Accidental injections into the hand WILL NOT deliver an effective dose of the antidote, especially if the needle goes through the hand.
- C. Squat, DO NOT kneel, when administering nerve agent antidotes to patients. Kneeling may force the chemical agent into or through your protective clothing.

Cross Reference: Nerve Agent Exposure, PD #8027