



# Snakebite

INDICATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When a person knows they have been bitten by a poisonous or unidentified snake or is bitten by an unknown source with physical evidence of rattlesnake bite (one or more puncture wound) and has symptoms of envenomation such as local pain, swelling or numbness.</li> </ul>
BLS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follow <a href="#">General Medical Care M-01</a>.</li> <li>For pediatric patients, follow <a href="#">General Pediatric Care P-01</a>.</li> <li>Reassure patient and keep calm.</li> <li>Immobilize extremity at or below heart level. Restrict patient's movement.</li> <li>Remove jewelry, clothes, or constricting items.</li> <li>Mark the affected area with pen and record time to measure rate of spread.</li> <li>Expedite transport to most appropriate facility that stocks appropriate antivenin.</li> </ul>
ALS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All specific ALS treatment is identified in <a href="#">General Medical Care M-01</a>.</li> </ul>
KEY CONCEPTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide early notification to receiving facility.</li> <li>Monitor extremity closely for signs of compartment syndrome.</li> <li>Identify causative agent or attempt to provide description/type of snake.</li> <li>If snake was an exotic pet or zoo animal (e.g., coral snake, cobra, krait, or Mojave rattlesnake), neurologic or respiratory depression may precede local reaction. Observe for mental status change, respiratory depression, convulsions, or paralysis.</li> <li>Due to the nature of certain venom, monitor airway, breathing closely. Be prepared to support ventilations</li> <li>Do not allow the application of ice or tourniquets. Do not allow incision of the wound.</li> </ul>