

## Bites and Envenomation

### Aliases

Stings

### Patient Care Goals

Bites, stings, and envenomations can come from a variety of insects, marine, and terrestrial animals. Assure adequate ventilation, oxygenation, and correction of hypoperfusion. Provide pain control which also may include external interventions to reduce pain

### Patient Presentation

#### Inclusion Criteria

1. Bites, stings, and envenomations can come from a variety of marine and terrestrial animals and insects causing local or systemic effects
2. Patients may present with toxin specific reactions which may include:
  - a. Site pain
  - b. Swelling
  - c. Muscle pain (hallmark of black widow spider bites)
  - d. Erythema
  - e. Discoloration
  - f. Bleeding
  - g. Nausea
  - h. Abdominal pain
  - i. Hypotension
  - j. Tachycardia
  - k. Tachypnea
  - l. Muscle incoordination
  - m. Confusion
  - n. Anaphylaxis/allergic reactions
3. There is a spectrum of toxins or envenomations and limited EMS interventions that will have any mitigating effect on the patient in the field
  - a. The critical intervention is to get the patient to a hospital that has access to the antivenin if applicable

#### Exclusion Criteria

None noted

### Patient Management

#### Assessment

1. Assess ABCDs and if indicated expose and then cover to assure retention of body heat
2. Vital signs (pulse, blood pressure, respiratory rate, neurologic status assessment) which include temperature
3. Apply a cardiac monitor, examine rhythm strip for arrhythmias, and consider obtaining a 12-lead EKG
4. Check blood glucose Level
5. Monitor pulse oximetry and EtCO<sub>2</sub> for respiratory decompensation