

**San Joaquin County
Emergency Medical Services Agency**



BLS Bites and Stings

AUTHORITY: Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Sections 1797.60, 1797.80, 1797.197, 1797.197a, 1797.204, 1797.220, 1798; California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Chapter 2, Sections 100062, 100063, 100064

INFORMATION NEEDED:

Type of animal or insect; time of exposure.

History of previous exposures, allergic reactions, any known specific allergen.

Wound site: puncture marks, teeth marks, stinger.

For snake bites refer to EMS Policy No. 5553, BLS Snake Bites.

OBJECTIVE FINDINGS:

Local Reaction: rash, hives; localized redness and swelling; skin at wound area hot to touch; decreased pain or sense of touch.

Systemic Reaction: Any or all localized findings; respiratory distress, wheezing, stridor; diaphoresis; decreased blood pressure; tachycardia; rapid respirations.

TREATMENT:

1. Ensure personal safety.
2. Primary Survey – ensure ABC's.
3. Remove insect stinger using a scraping motion, do not squeeze venom sac
4. For moderate to severe reactions:
 - a. EMT: Assist patient with taking their own prescribed Allergic Reaction medications such as bee sting kit (epinephrine, diphenhydramine, antihistamine) or beta-2 inhaler.
 - b. Enhanced Skill EMT: Administer Epinephrine Auto-Injector:
 - Adult dose (greater than 66 lbs) EpiPen Auto-Injector 0.3mg.
 - Pediatric dose (less than 66 lbs) EpiPen Jr. Auto-Injector 0.15mg.
5. Monitor SpO₂.
6. Administer oxygen for shortness of breath or signs of hypoxia: Oxygen 10-15 L/min via non-rebreathing mask. Patients with ineffective respirations: support ventilations with BVM and airway.
7. Cold packs may be applied for pain (avoid placing ice directly on skin).
8. Dress wounds with gauze as needed.

Effective: April 1, 2020

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Supersedes: July 1, 2007

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Medical Director

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EMS Administrator

9. Secondary Survey and Routine Medical Care.

Note:

- 1) Notify animal control and law enforcement of all animal bites.
- 2) If safe, package the insect or spider for transport and positive identification.
- 3) All bites (dog, cat, human, etc) need to be transported for further evaluation at a hospital for proper cleansing and potential antibiotic therapy.
- 4) The time since envenomation is important as anaphylaxis rarely occurs more than 60 minutes after envenomation.

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