

# SNAKE BITE STANDING ORDER

## Initiate immediate supportive care:

- Obtain vital signs
- Oxygen to keep SpO<sub>2</sub> > 94%
- Cardiac monitor (if available)

## INCLUSION

Symptomatic or Asymptomatic Snake Bite

### Special Notes:

1. Local reactions include swelling, tenderness, redness, ecchymosis, or blisters at the bite site.
2. Systemic reactions include hypotension, bleeding beyond the puncture site, refractory vomiting, diarrhea, angioedema and neurotoxicity.
3. Do NOT wrap extremity
  - No constricting bands, ice or tourniquets
  - No suction or cut to the bite
  - \*Ensure immobilization device or dressing does not result in constriction due to swelling
4. All hospitals in Southern Arizona carry rattlesnake antivenom.

## ORDERS

- Note estimated time bite occurred
- Prepare for immediate transport, do not delay until onset of symptoms
- Remove all watches, rings, jewelry, etc. (including shoes) from all extremities
- Immobilize affected extremity in an extended position, keep patient as still as possible\*
- Elevate limb to the level of the heart
- Perform neurovascular checks and mark the edge of any discoloration or swelling and write the time on the line, if possible
  - Monitor every 15 minutes
- Initiate IV in unaffected extremity
  - If SBP <90 administer 20 ml/kg bolus of NS, may repeat as needed and reassess patient after each bolus
- Follow [Pain Management SO](#)

### Contact Medical Direction for:

- Allergic Reaction
- Deterioration in patient condition
- Management of a tourniquet placed prior to EMS arrival
- Non-native/exotic snakebites