

## **WBOC Snake Bite Treatment      3/03/2016**

In the event of a walker being bitten by a snake, first attempt to call 000 and seek advice. In the event of “no signal” someone should go to find a place where contact can be made. The patient should not be left alone. Follow the advice given by Emergency Services.

**Until advice is received from Emergency Services**, follow the following procedures:-

Lie the patient down flat.

Reassure the patient.

Do not try to evacuate the patient unless advised to do so by Emergency Services or a doctor.

Do not wash the wound and do not remove any blood or venom which may be on or around the wound. This may be analysed later to identify the type of snake.

Do not try to suck the venom from the wound.

Snake bite venom travels through the body via the lymphatic system, not the blood system, eventually entering small veins near the heart. If the snake bite is on a limb (arm, leg), slow the lymphatic system by applying a firm compression bandage from the bite point down almost to the tips of the limb (fingers, toes), then extending up the limb as far as possible including over the bite site. Be careful not to make the bandage so tight that it restricts blood circulation. Immobilise the limb so that the patient cannot move it.

Do not allow the patient to move or walk, regardless of where the bite is. Any muscle movement puts pressure on the lymphatic system, pushing the venom through.

If the bite is not on a limb e.g. chest or back, apply firm direct pressure on the bite area as a compression bandage will not be appropriate.

If the patient has lapsed into unconsciousness, place them into the recovery position (on their side) and monitor. If the patient stops breathing, commence CPR.

The only thing the patient should be allowed to consume is **LITTLE** sips of water to prevent dehydration – no food or medications.