Subject: Treatment Guidelines – BLS

**Envenomation** 

## **Associated Policies:**

- I. Priorities
  - A. ABC's
  - B. Keep patient calm; determine degree of physiologic distress.
  - C. Obtain accurate description of snake, spider, insect, etc.
  - D. Transport.
- II. Envenomation
  - A. Follow basic therapy, and treat for specific envenomations.
    - 1. Basic Therapy:
      - a. Ensure a patent airway.
      - b. Administer oxygen per policy.
      - c. Immobilize affected area.
      - d. Identify causative agent. If it can be safely handled, consider bringing to hospital.
      - e. Contact transporting ambulance or base hospital.
      - f. Transport.
    - 2. Specific Envenomations:
      - a. Jelly Fish:
        - 1) Rinse site of sting with alcohol, ammonia or salt water without rubbing or applying pressure.
      - b. Sting Ray:
        - 1) Soak in hot water.
        - 2) Do not remove barb.
      - c. Bees/Wasps:
        - 1) Remove stinger by the quickest non-invasive means possible.
        - 2) Apply cold packs.
        - 3) Assess for signs of anaphylaxis. Treat per BLS Anaphylaxis Protocol.
      - d. Venomous Snake Bites:
        - 1) Immobilize the affected extremity, keeping it in neutral position relative to the heart.
        - 2) Do not incise skin.
        - 3) Do not apply ice.
      - e. Spider Bites/Scorpion Stings:
        - 1) Apply cold packs to affected area.
        - 2) Avoid excessive movement, keeping the affected extremity dependent.

Approved: Karte M

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