



ORANGE COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES  
BASE HOSPITAL TREATMENT GUIDELINES  
SNAKE ENVENOMATION (ADULT/ADOLESCENT)

**BASE GUIDELINES**

1. Determine ALS Standing Order treatments/procedures rendered prior to base hospital contact. Use ALS standing order as guidelines for treatments/procedures not initiated prior to base hospital contact.
2. Determine closest facility with immediate access to antivenin.
3. For continued uncontrolled pain when BP greater than 90 systolic:
  - ▶ May repeat or give Fentanyl 50 mcg IV/IM (or 100mcg IN) or Morphine Sulfate 5 mg IV/IM, repeat once after 3 minutes for continued pain if systolic BP greater than 90 (maximum total dose of Fentanyl 200 mcg, Morphine 20 mg).

**ALS STANDING ORDER**

1. Make early base contact to determine appropriate receiving hospital that can provide antivenin.
2. Minimize patient movement.
3. Splint or otherwise immobilize the affected extremity; keep affected extremity at or below the level of the heart.
4. Do not use cold packs
5. Apply OCEMS approved tourniquet if bite is on distal extremity, place above the arm or leg joint above the bite. Tighten to allow a finger to slide under the tourniquet and such that a distal pulse is palpable.
6. For pain:
  - ▶ *Morphine sulfate 5 mg (or 4 mg carpuject) IV/IM, may repeat once in 3 minutes to control pain.*
  - OR**
  - ▶ *Fentanyl 50 mcg IV/IM or Fentanyl 100 mcg IN, may repeat once in 3 minutes to control pain.*
7. ALS escort to nearest ERC identified by Base Hospital (see #1 above).

Approved: