

	Department Name Address	BLS	EMT
		Revision #	
		Implementation Date	
Protocol	4.1.32 Snake Bites	Last Reviewed/Update Date	
Author / Owner		Medical Director	

General Information:

Pit Vipers (the most common likely to be encountered in North Dakota): especially rattlesnake, (but also include water moccasin, and copperhead) typically cause puncture wounds. There may be ecchymosis at site, localized pain, swelling, weakness, tachycardia, nausea, shortness of breath, dim vision, vomiting, or shock.

Kill the snake, if practical, and bring the dead snake to the emergency department (or identify). Do not mutilate the snake's head.

1. Baseline Care Standards.
2. Airway management per protocol.
3. If bite on extremity, immobilize affected extremity in dependent position. Patient should remain still. Place 1" wide venous constricting band proximal to bite. Check for arterial pulses before and after application. If no pulse, loosen band until pulse returns.
4. Remove watches, rings, and jewelry from affected extremity.
5. Contact medical control.
6. Call for ALS intercept.
7. Reassure and transport.

Medical Director's Signature

Date

Disclaimer:

The protocols have been developed by the North Dakota Department of Health are meant to be used as general guidance for developing protocols for individual emergency medical services agencies. These sample protocols are not meant to be medical or legal advice; nor do they establish standards of care. Each emergency medical services agency must tailor protocols based on their specific needs or capabilities. Local medical directors must be consulted with and approve any protocol(s) prior to becoming operational in an emergency medical services agency. directors must be consulted with and approve any protocol(s) prior to becoming operational in an emergency medical services agency. The North Dakota Department of Health make no representation on the accuracy of information contained herein and accepts no liability for any loss or damage arising from any content error or omission.