



# Medical Directive

<b>Directive Number</b>	<b>21-06</b>
<b>Publish Date</b>	<b>29 June 2021</b>
<b>Effective Date</b>	<b>29 June 2021</b>
<b>Subject</b>	<b><u>Snake Bites &amp; Field Triage / Transport</u></b>
<b><u>Field Triage of Patient</u></b>	

<b>Credentialed PL 1</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>Credentialed PL 2</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>Credentialed PL 3</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>Credentialed PL 4</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>Credentialed PL 5</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>Credentialed PL 6</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>Credentialed EMD</b>	<b>Information</b>

Colleagues,

This medical directive adds venomous snake bites to our field triage of injured patients. Following recent snake bite transports, the decision was made to transport these patients to an appropriate level 1 or 2 trauma center within our system. A snake bite is commonly considered a traumatic injury by the medical community.

This decision was made after consulting with physician colleagues and content experts. Reasons for this decision are the potential for surgical intervention and other life or limb saving measures. It is common practice for outlying ED facilities in the Austin area to stabilize then transfer patients with suspected venomous snake bites to trauma centers for care and observation. A goal of our system is to transport our patients from the field to the most appropriate facility.

The revised Field Triage of Patient checklist accompanies this medical directive as well as our Bites and Envenomation clinical guideline for your review.

Thank you for all that you do,



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