5040 INSECT/ARACHNID STINGS AND BITES

EMR	EMT	EMT-IV	AEMT	INTERMEDIATE	PARAMEDIC

Initiate general care for bites and stings

Assess for localized vs. systemic signs and symptoms and depending on animal involved

Localized Symptoms:

- *Pain, warmth and swelling*

Systemic Symptoms:

- *Hives, generalized erythema, swelling, angioedema*
- *Hypotension*
- *Altered mental status*
- *Other signs of shock*

Ref. Opioids for severe pain
Ref. Pain Management

Diphenhydramine IV

Diphenhydramine PO

- Administer Oxygen
- Start IV

Treat per Allergy and Anaphylaxis protocol

General Care

- For bees/wasps:
  - Remove stinger mechanism by scraping with a straight edge. Do not squeeze venom sac
- For spiders:
  - Bring in spider if captured or dead for identification

Specific Information Needed:

- Timing of bite/sting
- Identification of spider, bee, wasp, other insect, if possible
- History of prior allergic reactions to similar exposures
- Treatment prior to EMS eval: e.g. EpiPen, diphenhydramine, etc

Specific Precautions:

- For all types of bites and stings, the goal of prehospital care is to prevent further envenomation and to treat allergic reactions
- Anaphylactoid reactions may occur upon first exposure to allergen, and do not require prior sensitization
- Anaphylactic reactions typically occur abruptly, and rarely > 60 minutes after exposure