

Purpose: The purpose of this policy is to provide clear and standardised guidelines for the treatment of snake bites in order to ensure the best possible outcomes for patients.

The first aid treatment for snake bites may vary depending on the specific circumstances, but the following steps can be taken as a general guideline:

1. Stay calm and call for emergency medical assistance immediately.
2. Keep the affected limb still and immobilised, as this can help slow the spread of venom.
3. Remove any tight clothing or jewellery around the affected area, as swelling can occur.
4. If possible, move the patient to a safe location away from the snake to prevent further bites or attacks.
5. Position the person so that the bite area is below the heart level. This will help slow down the spread of the venom.
6. Wash the bite area with soap and water, if available.
7. Cover the bite area with a clean, dry dressing.
8. Keep the patient calm and reassured while waiting for emergency medical assistance to arrive.

It is important to note that the only specific treatment for venomous snake bites is antivenom, which should be administered by trained medical personnel in a hospital or healthcare facility as soon as possible. The above steps should only be taken as first aid measures and are not a substitute for proper medical treatment.

A snake bite first aid kit is available at The Parks reception office.