

## **Snake Antivenom Therapy**

### **Indications**

1. Serious local toxicity e.g. gross swelling, blistering, gangrene, injury to blood vessels, nerves or tendons.
2. Serious hematological toxicity.
3. Established or anticipated neurological toxicity.
4. Other major organ toxicity.

### **Expected benefits**

1. Stop or slow the progress of local and neurological toxicity.
2. Improve hematological toxicity.

### **Side effects**

1. Allergic reactions occur in a minority of patients.
2. Early reactions are usually skin itching and rash, but can include difficulty in breathing, low blood pressure or death.
3. Reactions may present several days later with fever, skin rash and joint pain.
4. Medical staff will adopt measures to minimize the risks. These side effects generally respond well to treatment.

### **Notes**

Medical staff will assess the indications and then suggest antivenom therapy if the expected benefits outweigh the expected side effects. Supplementary information other than that in the factsheet may be given depending on the individual's medical status. For queries, please contact the medical staff.