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**TO:** Ambulance Service Providers  
Fire Departments  
Hospitals, Base and Receiving  
Training Centers  
Other Interested Parties

**FROM:** Humberto Ochoa, MD / *HMO*  
Medical Director

**RE:** Snakebite Treatment and Transport

**DATE:** 24 June 2010

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The warm weather is upon us and people are going outside to enjoy the sunshine. Unfortunately, so are other creatures, including snakes. As people increase their outdoor activities, snakebite incidents will also increase.

Appropriate treatment for snakebite in this county includes keeping the victim calm, immobilization of the bitten part to minimize circulation of the poison, and expeditious transport to *the closest hospital*. The Riverside County EMS system does not have a designated specialty center for snakebite treatment because transport to a specialty center is *not* necessary. All hospitals in Riverside County keep an adequate supply of anti-venom on hand for initial treatment, and several maintain large quantities in their pharmacies. Symptomatic treatment en route to the nearest receiving center hospital may include an IV, O<sub>2</sub>, and perhaps respiratory or cardiac assistance. Specific additional orders can be obtained through base hospital contact.

Any questions on this matter may be referred to Karen Petrilla, EMS Specialist, at the EMS Agency office, (951) 358 – 5029.