

# BEE or WASP STING

## Level II

Skill Level: RN

Definition: Moderate to severe localized skin reaction to bee sting. Systemic involvement indicates need to advance to severe allergic reaction.

<b>MODERATE</b>	
<p><b>Subjective:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• "I got stung by a bee (or any insect), it hurts and is swollen."</li><li>• Denies difficulty breathing.</li><li>• Denies prior allergic reaction to bee or wasp sting.</li></ul>	<p><b>Assessment:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Alteration in comfort: bee or wasp sting.</li><li>• Alteration in skin integrity: bee or wasp sting.</li></ul>
<p><b>Objective:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Has area of erythema, localized swelling greater than 2".</li><li>• Stinger may/may not be visible at site of sting.</li><li>• May have decreased ROM due to swelling around joint areas.</li><li>• No observed breathing difficulty.</li><li>• Lungs clear to auscultation.</li><li>• B/P WNL for patient.</li><li>• No facial swelling.</li></ul>	<p><b>Plan:</b></p> <p><b>Patient education and self-care items for this protocol include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Instruct patient to use meds available on the housing unit to treat pain (handout). At nursing discretion may use any of the below:</li><li>• Provide Level I treatment plus:</li><li>• Review current medications.</li><li>• Check medication allergies.</li><li>• Zyrtec 10 mg PO QD/prn x 5 days.</li><li>• Hydrocortisone 1% Cream, apply BID/prn to reduce itching.</li><li>• If presenting to Health Services less than one hour after bee or wasp sting, observe x 30 minutes for possible systemic reaction.</li><li>• If reaction symptoms increase, and are systemic rather than local, go to severe below.</li></ul>

## Bee Sting / Wasp Sting - Level II

<b>SEVERE</b>	
<p><b>Subjective:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• "I got stung by a bee, it hurts and is swollen."</li><li>• States previous history of allergic reaction to bee sting/wasp sting.</li><li>• "I am having trouble breathing."</li></ul>	<p><b>Assessment:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ineffective breathing pattern: bee or wasp sting allergy.</li></ul>
<p><b>Objective:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Has increased respiratory effort.</li><li>• Auscultation lungs shows wheezing, rhonchi, or decreased breath sounds.</li><li>• B/P lower than usual, may be hypotensive. Pulse increased.</li><li>• Nausea and vomiting may be present.</li><li>• Hives (urticaria) may be present.</li><li>• Facial swelling may be present.</li></ul>	<p><b>Plan:</b></p> <p>At nursing discretion may use any of the below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Depending on severity:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Initiate Anaphylaxis emergency protocol and/or Asthma emergency protocol. Emergency use of Epinephrine is probably indicated.</li><li>-Prepare to transport to hospital if not improving.</li><li>-Notify practitioner while waiting for transport.</li></ul></li><li>• Document allergy and date on medical record.</li></ul>

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### Nursing Education:

1. If generalized facial swelling occurs, it may be indicative of a potentially severe systemic reaction. Treat systemic allergic symptoms as a medical emergency.
2. Diffuse swelling without evidence of systemic symptoms does not necessarily indicate the probability of a serious systemic reaction.
3. Frequently, patients believe that they have a spider bite, when in fact they have a staph or other skin infection. When in doubt, use the skin infection protocol if the area looks infected.

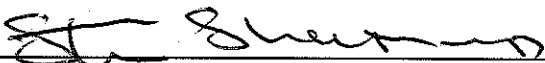
### APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Medical Services Manager

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Date

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Chief Medical Officer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Medical Director

6/4/09  
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Date

Effective Date: June 2009.

Revised: April 2009