



Issue: Snakebite Bandages (2)

Raised by: Dr Jan Bowman (GP, Nguiu)

Background: Best Practice Group has previously released a communiqué ([06-19](#)) which indicated that Remote Health supported the use of broad crepe bandages when applying a lymphatic bandaging for first aid of snakebite. This advice was interim advice pending the finalisation of a then current research activity being conducted. That research has now been published and Remote Health is revisiting the topic.

Discussion: The need for lymphatic bandaging which provides, and continues to provide, adequate pressure to minimise lymphatic flow, remains the mainstay of effective first aid for snakebite. The factors mentioned in communiqué [06-19](#), of use of broad bandages (i.e. 12-15cm) and immobilisation of joints above and below a bite site, remain important.

However in view of the results of the [research](#) by Dr Bart Currie et al, there is now evidence to support the use of elasticised bandages in snakebite first aid and primary management until a client arrives in a hospital Emergency Department.

Elasticised bandages are relatively expensive and it is important that stock is reserved for use in management of snakebite.

The standard configuration of the Remote Health Emergency Response Kit is being reviewed. The inclusion of elasticised bandages in that kit, will be considered.

Consultation: Lynton Harry (Darwin Stores), Cathie Allen (Alice Springs Stores)

References: [Investigating pressure bandaging for snakebite in a simulated setting: bandage type, training and the effect of transport](#); Report by Canale E, Isbister GK, Currie BJ.

Outcome: All health centres should stock elasticised bandages for use in snakebite. (Suggested location to store the bandages is in the health centre resuscitation trolley, however a pending review of the Remote Health standard emergency equipment will consider the default location to store these bandages.)

An initial supply of bandages will be distributed to health centres and will thereafter be available through the [Remote Health Stock](#) process.