



PATIENT INFORMATION – ANIMAL AND HUMAN BITES

Animal bites (such as dog bites) and human bites are a relatively common type of injury.

Your treatment in the emergency department

A severe bite will have been treated in hospital to clean out the wound and remove any damaged tissue.

Some wounds are not stitched up if there is a risk of infection, as leaving the wound open makes it easier to keep it clean. Usually a dressing will have been applied.

Do I need antibiotics or a tetanus?

Antibiotics will only have been prescribed if there is a risk of infection. If you have not had a full course of tetanus vaccinations, you may need a tetanus injection. If one of your arms has been affected, you might need to wear a high sling. This will help stop any swelling.

Human bites

As you have been bitten by a human, you have needed blood tests to check for blood borne viruses (such as Hepatitis and HIV). You may also have been immunised against hepatitis B.

Important information

If you experience any of the following signs, you should contact your GP immediately as the bite may have become infected:

- redness and swelling around the wound
- the wound becomes more painful
- pus is leaking from the wound
- a high temperature or feeling unwell

Further Advice/Instructions

Please use this section to give the patient specific information e.g. follow up appointments or after care advice.



If you become unwell or are injured, choose the right NHS service to make sure you get the best treatment. The Choose Well campaign explains what each NHS service does, and when it should be used.

Choosing well means that you and your family will get the best treatment. It also allows busy NHS services to help the people who need them most.

If you are unsure about which option to choose, please call NHS Direct Wales on 0845 46 47 or visit the choose well website at www.choosewellwales.org.uk

This information has been produced based on previous information leaflets and the evidence available at the time of publication. It has been clinically reviewed however if you notice anything that needs updating or amending please contact ppi.team@wales.nhs.uk

If you require this information in another language or format please ask a member of staff.

For further advice or information contact NHS Direct Wales 0845 46 47
www.nhsdirect.wales.nhs.uk