Government of South Australia
Department of Health

Red Back Spiderbite Management Flowchart

START HERE ➡

Patient presents with possible red back spiderbite

Clinical features of red back spider bite
- local pain, often severe ± local sweating
- spreading pain, often severe
- increased sweating
- increased blood pressure
- nausea ± malaise
- generalised or regional severe pain (may mimic myocardial ischaemic pain or acute abdomen)

Was a spider seen to bite?

Yes → **No**

Yes → **Red back spider?** / **Not sure what type**

No → **No symptoms of red back spider bite**

Patient has symptoms suggestive of red back spider bite?

Yes → **No**

Develops severe spreading or regional pain ± sweating, hypertension, nausea, malaise

Yes

Local pain only ± local sweating

No

It may be some other type of spiderbite or other bite or sting

TREATMENT
Give 2 ampoules CSL Red Back Spider Antivenom IM or IV, with adrenaline ready should an anaphylactoid reaction occur

TREATMENT
Observe

Symptoms resolve or remain minor

Develops severe spreading or regional pain ± sweating, hypertension, nausea, malaise

Continues to have local severe pain, not relieved by analgesics

TREATMENT
Discharge with instructions to return if symptoms recur/develop

TREATMENT
Consider giving CSL Red Back Spider Antivenom

Symptom resolve over next 2 hrs?

Yes

No

TREATMENT
Give another 2 ampoules CSL Red Bacl Spider Antivenom IM or IV, with adrenaline ready should an anaphylactoid reaction occur.
If still poor response 2hrs seek expert advice!

Flowchart developed by Professor Julian White