Insect Bite or Sting, Infected
Cellulitis

An insect bite which has become infected is called cellulitis. Cellulitis is an infection of the skin and the tissue beneath it. The area is typically red and tender. This is caused by germs (*bacteria*, usually staph or strep) that have entered the body through the sting or bite. This infection usually responds well to antibiotics. Antibiotics are medications which kill germs.

HOME CARE INSTRUCTIONS

- If you are given a prescription for *antibiotics* (medicine that kill germs), take as directed until finished.
- If the infection is on the arm or leg, keep the limb elevated as you are able.
- Keep the affected area clean and dry.
- See your caregiver for recheck of the infected site in 8 hours or sooner if problems arise.
- Only take over-the-counter or prescription medicines for pain, discomfort, or fever as directed by your caregiver.

SEEK MEDICAL CARE IF:

- An oral temperature above 100.4º F (38º C) develops, not controlled by medication.
- Pus or a foul odor develop.
- The area of redness (*inflammation*) is spreading, there are red streaks coming from the infected site, or if a part of the infection begins to turn dark in color.
- The joint or bone underneath the infected skin becomes painful after the skin has healed.
- The infection returns in the same or another area after it seems to have gone away.
- New, unexplained symptoms such as pain or fever develop.

SEEK IMMEDIATE MEDICAL CARE IF:

You or your child feel drowsy, lethargic, or have vomiting, diarrhea, or generalized malaise with muscle aches and pains.

MAKE SURE YOU:

- Understand these instructions.
- Will watch your condition.
- Will get help right away if you are not doing well or get worse.

Document Released: 11/15/2007 Document Re-Released: 10/15/2010
ExitCare® Patient Information ©2011 ExitCare, LLC.