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From: Ron Kirschner, MD, Medical Director  
To: ALL HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS  
Subject: New antivenom available for rattlesnake bites  
Date: 3/11/19

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- The snakebite season will be arriving soon and you should be aware of a new antivenom product.
- Crotaline Immune F(ab')<sub>2</sub> (Anavip®) is a new equine-derived antivenom that is FDA-approved for treatment of rattlesnake envenomation.
- F(ab')<sub>2</sub> is available through Rare Disease Therapeutics (RDT). You can also contact Paul Landes (RDT vice president of sales) at 602-741-6077.
- Compared with the current Fab antivenom (Crofab®), it is a larger molecule, so is expected to have a longer duration of action.
- Because of this longer duration, maintenance dosing is **not** required. The initial dose is different than with FabAV (10 vials instead of 4-6).
- In a multicenter clinical study, treatment with F(ab')<sub>2</sub>AV was associated with a lower incidence of late or recurrent hematologic effects compared with FabAV, and the safety profile of the two products was similar.
- In areas where rattlesnake bites are common, we recommend that health care facilities consider stocking F(ab')<sub>2</sub>AV as a first line treatment.
- Because F(ab')<sub>2</sub>AV is an equine-derived product, in patients with known allergy to horse serum, ovine-derived FabAV (Crofab) would be preferred. For this reason, hospitals that frequently treat patients with rattlesnake bite should ideally stock both products.
- As with any new product, we will be closely monitoring efficacy as well as adverse events, and hope that caregivers will provide us with feedback.
- Please contact the Nebraska Regional Poison Center with any questions regarding treatment of snakebite.

#### Reference

Bush SP *et al.* Comparison of F(ab')<sub>2</sub> versus Fab antivenom for pit viper envenomation: A prospective, blinded, multicenter, randomized clinical trial. *Clin Toxicol* 2015; 53; 37-45.

**Our nurse and pharmacist certified specialists in poison information and physician toxicologists are available 24 hours a day to answer your questions.**