Insect bites and stings: antimicrobial prescribing





Assessment

Assess the type and severity of the bite or sting to identify:

- a local inflammatory or allergic skin reaction
- symptoms or signs of an infection
- a systemic reaction

Be aware that a rapid-onset skin reaction is likely to be an inflammatory or allergic reaction rather than an infection

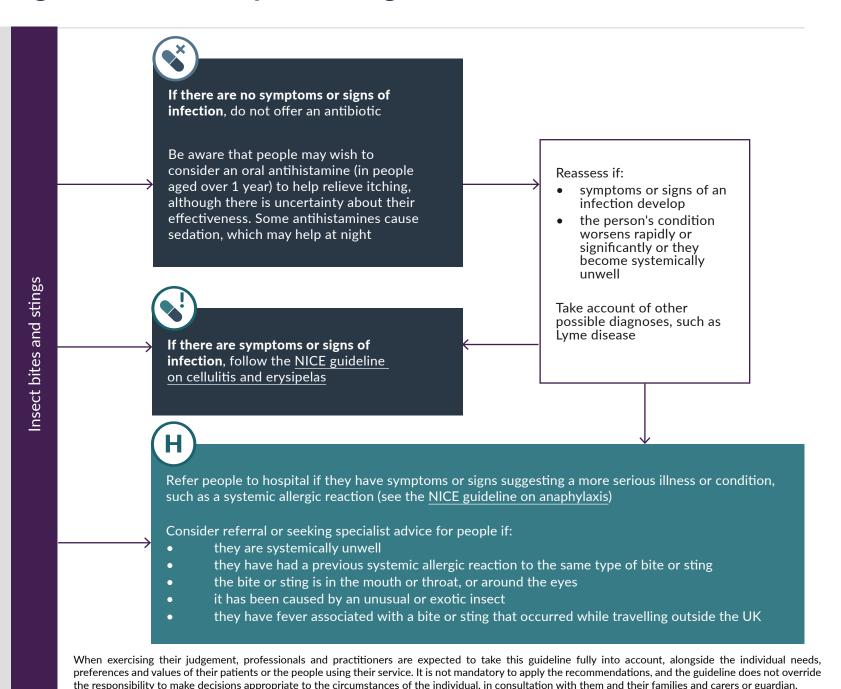
Follow the NICE guideline on Lyme disease for people with a tick bite



Advice

Advise people that:

- skin redness and itching are common and may last for up to 10 days
- it is unlikely that the skin will become infected
- avoiding scratching may reduce inflammation and the risk of infection
- a community pharmacist can advise about self-care treatments
- they should seek medical help if symptoms develop or worsen rapidly or significantly at any time, or they become systemically unwell



DRAFT November 2019