Children's Mercy Kansas City

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Clinical Pathways

Evidence-Based Practice Collaborative

2-2022

Febrile Infant Without Evidence Source of Infection

Children's Mercy Kansas City

These guidelines do not establish a standard of care to be followed in every case. It is recognized that each case is different and those individuals involved in providing health care are expected to use their judgment in determining what is in the best interests of the patient based on the circumstances existing at the time. It is impossible to anticipate all possible situations that may exist and to prepare guidelines for each. Accordingly, these guidelines should guide care with the understanding that departures from them may be required at times.

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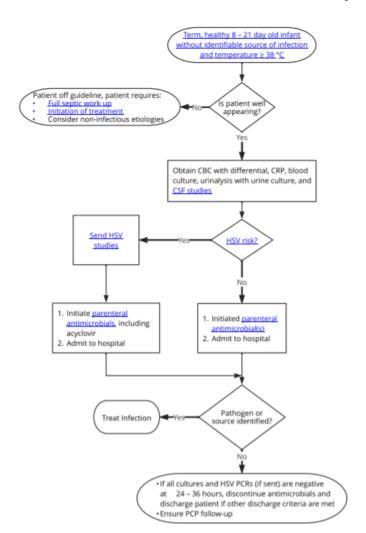
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Children's Mercy Kansas City (CMKC) Evidence Based Practice Clinical Practice Guide Committee

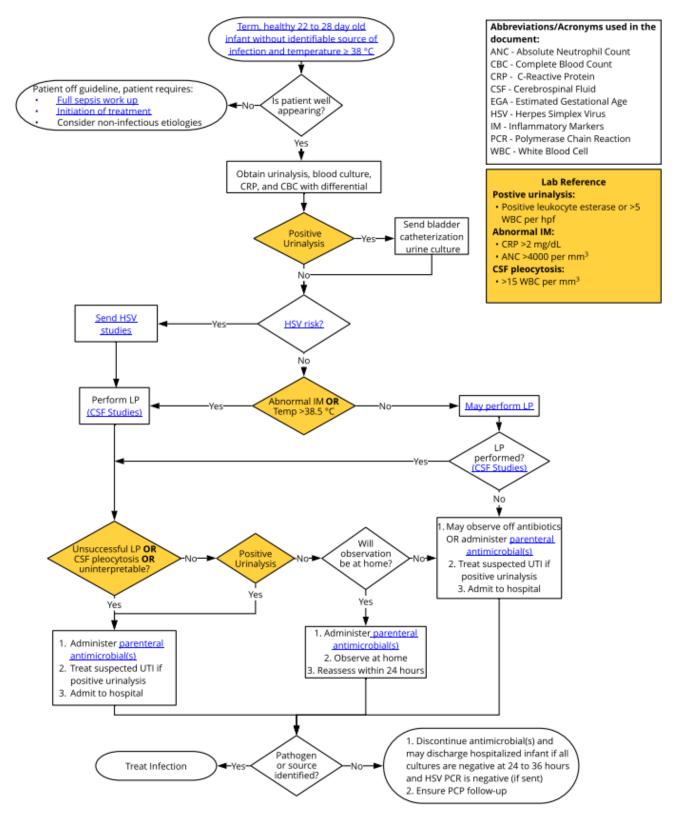
Febrile Infant 8 to 60 Days



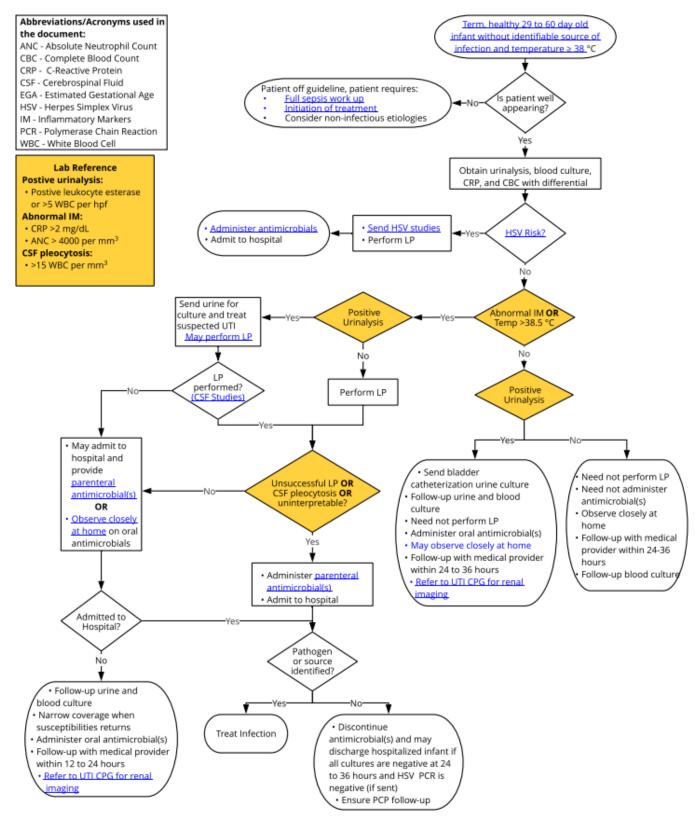
Abbreviations (laboratory & radiology excluded): EGA - Estimated Gestational Age

CSF - Cerebrospinal Fluid HSV - Herpes Simplex Virus











Background

Fever in infants can at times be the only sign of invasive bacterial infection. Although rates are lower than in the past (Pantell et al, 2021), missed diagnoses can have serious long-term adverse outcomes. Many febrile infants undergo extensive laboratory evaluations, including blood, urine, and cerebrospinal fluid cultures, followed by empiric broad spectrum antibiotics and hospitalization (Powell et al, 2019). However, risks associated with these medical interventions are increasingly recognized (Pantell et al, 2021), prompting the development of evidence-based strategies for a more targeted approach. In 2021, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Subcommittee on Febrile Infants updated the clinical practice guidelines, providing recommendations based on patient age, clinical presentation, and laboratory findings. These recommendations assist providers in identifying infants at low risk of invasive bacterial infection and choosing diagnostic and therapeutic interventions for those at higher risk (Pantell et al, 2021).

Objective of Guideline

To provide care standards for well-appearing febrile infants throughout the care continuum.

Perspective of Guideline

- Provider
- Patient/Family
- Health System (CMKC)
- Community

Target Users

- Emergency Department and Urgent Care Clinic Providers
- General Pediatricians
- Pediatric Hospitalists
- Fellows
- Resident Physicians
- Pediatric Nurse Practitioners

Target Population

Guideline Inclusion Criteria

- Well-appearing
- Full-term (≥ 37 weeks estimated gestational age)
- 8 to 60-days of age
- Temperature ≥ 38 °C at home in the past 24 hours or determined in a clinical setting
- Without an identifiable source of infection

Guideline Exclusion Criteria

- ≤ 7 days
- Preterm infants ≤ 37 weeks
- Younger than 2 weeks of age whose perinatal courses were complicated by maternal fever, infection, and/or antimicrobial use
- High suspicion of herpes simplex virus (HSV) infection (e.g., vesicles).
- Focal bacterial infection (eg, cellulitis, omphalitis, septic arthritis, osteomyelitis). These infections should be managed according to accepted standards
- Infants with clinical bronchiolitis, with or without positive test results for respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)
- Documented or suspected immune compromise
- Neonatal course was complicated by surgery or infection
- Congenital or chromosomal abnormalities
- Medically fragile infants requiring some form of technology or ongoing therapeutic intervention to sustain life
- Infants who have received immunizations within the last 48 hours

Clinical Questions Answered by Guideline

The American Academy of Pediatric national Guidelines provided guidance to the Febrile Infant CPG committee (Pantell et al., 2021). See Table 1 for AGREE II.



Table 1.

AGREE II^a Summary for the Guideline Patell et al. (2021)

Domain	Percent Agreement	Percent Justification
Scope and purpose	97%	The aim of the guideline, the clinical questions posed and target populations were identified.
Stakeholder involvement	88%	The guideline was developed by the appropriate stakeholders and represents the views of its intended users.
Rigor of development	95%	The process used to gather and synthesize the evidence, the methods to formulate the recommendations and to update the guidelines were explicitly stated.
Clarity and presentation	100%	The guideline recommendations are clear, unambiguous, and easily identified; in addition, different management options are presented.
Applicability	96%	Barriers and facilitators to implementation, strategies to improve utilization and resource implications were addressed in the guideline.
Editorial independence	100%	The recommendations were not biased with competing interests.
Committee's recommendation for guideline use	Yes with modification	

Note: Three Evidence Based Practice (EBP) Scholars completed the AGREE II on this guideline.

Practice Recommendations:

Please refer to the American Academy of Pediatrics (Pantell et al., 2021) Clinical Practice Guideline for full practice recommendations, evaluation, and treatment recommendations.

Children's Mercy Practice Recommendations and Reasoning:

Children's Mercy adopted the majority of the practice recommendations made by the AAP Clinical Practice Guideline. Deviations include:

- The AAP recommends gentamicin for infants 8-21 days of age with suspected UTI or suspected infection with no focus identified. Gentamicin is generally not preferred at Children's Mercy; choices should be made based on clinical factors and local susceptibility patterns.
- The AAP advises that providers may obtain inflammatory markers (i.e., procalcitonin, CRP, CBC) for infants 8-21 days of age. They are not strongly recommended due to the fact that lumbar puncture is recommended in infants of this age regardless of inflammatory markers. However, Children's Mercy does recommend CRP and CBC for infants 8-21 days of age. Lumbar puncture may be unsuccessful, yield too little CSF, or yield CSF with many red blood cells, making it difficult to interpret CSF WBC count and/or culture. In these cases, inflammatory markers may help guide the treatment plan.
- The AAP recommends that providers **may** obtain CSF studies for those infants 29-60 days of age with positive inflammatory markers and a negative urinalysis. However, we recognize the importance of consistency in care among settings and providers across our institution. To safely minimize variation in practice, Children's Mercy recommends providers obtain CSF



for infants 29-60 days of age with elevated inflammatory markers and no identifiable source.

Measures

In coordination with the AAP Value in Pediatrics Network REVISE II collaborative, quality measures include:

- Primary Outcomes
 - o Appropriately obtained CSF, if indicated
 - o Appropriate disposition from the emergency department
 - Correct receipt of antibiotics, if indicated
 - Timely discharge from the hospital within 36 hours of blood culture being received by the lab
- Balancing Measures
 - Emergency department revisit within 7 days
 - Readmission within 7 days
 - o Delayed diagnosis of invasive bacterial infections

Cost Implications:

The following potential improvements may reduce costs and resource utilization for healthcare facilities and reduce healthcare costs and non-monetary costs (e.g., missed school/work, loss of wages, stress) for patients and families.

- Decreased risk of overdiagnosis
- Decreased risk of overtreatment (i.e., treatment for meningitis when treatment for urinary tract infection is more appropriate)
- Decreased frequency of admission
- Decreased inpatient length of stay
- Decreased unwarranted variation in care

Organizational Barriers:

- Variability of acceptable level of risk among providers
- Challenges with follow-up faced by some families

Organizational Facilitators:

- Collaborative engagement across care settings in CPG development
- High rate of use of CPG
- Standardized order set for Urgent Care Clinic, Emergency Department, and Hospital Medicine

Order Sets (see Appendix)

How guideline was placed into practice

Once approved, the guideline was presented to appropriate care teams and implemented. In coordination with the AAP Value in Pediatrics Network REVISE II collaborative, care measurements will be assessed and shared with appropriate care teams to determine if changes need to occur.

Guideline Preparation

This guideline was prepared by the Evidence Based Practice (EBP) Department in collaboration with content experts at Children's Mercy Kansas City. The development of this guideline supports the Service and Performance Excellence initiative to promote care standardization that builds a culture of quality and safety that is evidenced by measured outcomes. If a conflict of interest is identified, the conflict will be disclosed next to the committee member's name.

Febrile Infant CPG Committee Members and Representation

- Christopher Veit, MD, MHPE, FAAP | Hospital Medicine | Committee Chair
- Stephanie Karnik, MD | Emergency Medicine | Committee Chair
- Josh Herigon, MD, MPH, MBI | Infectious Diseases | Committee member
- Maria Blanco, MD | Urgent Care | Committee member
- Alaina Burns, Pharm.D., BCPPS | Pharmacy | Committee member
- Jordan Marquess, MD | Pediatric Resident | Committee member



EBP Committee Members

- Katie Berg, MD, FAAP | Evidence Based Practice & Hospital Medicine | Committee member
- Jarrod Dusin, MS, RD, LD, CPHQ | Evidence Based Practice | Committee member

Guideline Development Funding

The development of this guideline was underwritten by the Department of EBP and the divisions of Hospital Medicine, Emergency Medicine, Infectious Diseases, and Urgent Care.

Approval Process

This guideline was reviewed and approved internally by Hospital Medicine, Emergency Medicine, Infectious Diseases, Urgent Care, Content Expert Committee, the EBP Department, Medical Executive, and other appropriate hospital committees deemed suitable for this guideline's intended use. Guidelines are reviewed and updated as necessary every 3 years within the EBP Department at CMKC. Content expert committees will be involved with every review and update.

Approval Obtained

Department/Unit	Date Approved
Hospital Medicine	February 2022
Emergency Medicine	February 2022
Infectious Diseases	February 2022
Urgent Care	February 2022
Medical Executive	March 2022

Version History

Date	Comments	
2/2/2022	Version 2	

Disclaimer

The content experts and the Office of EBP are aware of the controversies surrounding the Febrile Infant CPG. When evidence is lacking or inconclusive, options in care are provided in the guideline and the order sets that accompany the guideline.

These guidelines do not establish a standard of care to be followed in every case. It is recognized that each case is different, and those individuals involved in providing health care are expected to use their judgment in determining what is in the best interests of the patient based on the circumstances existing at the time.

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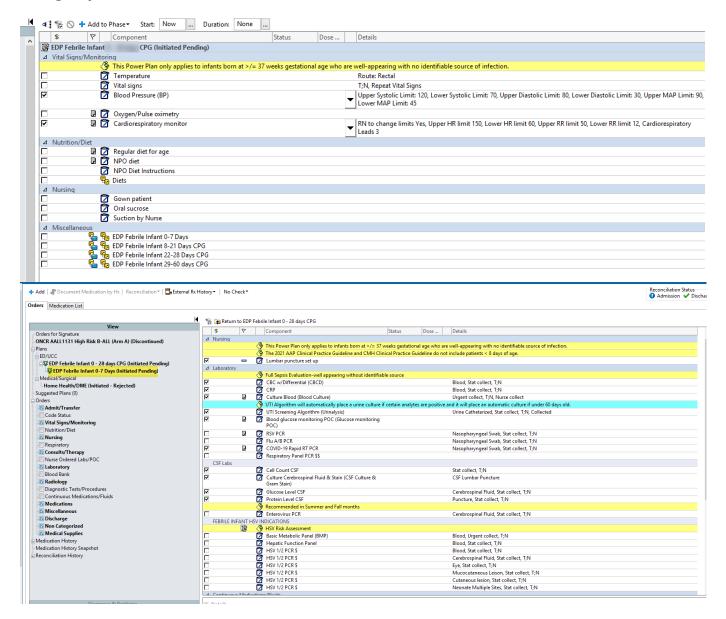


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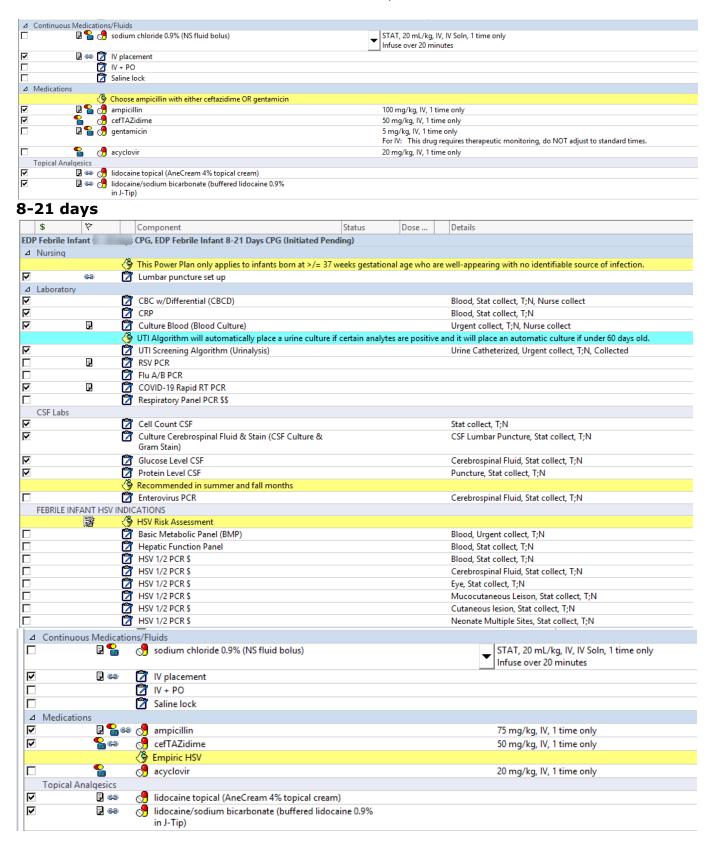
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Appendix

Emergency Order Set

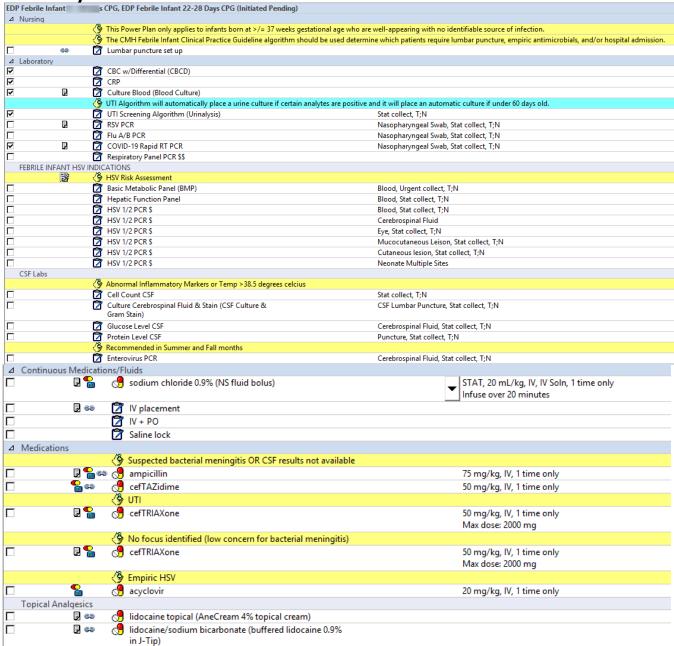




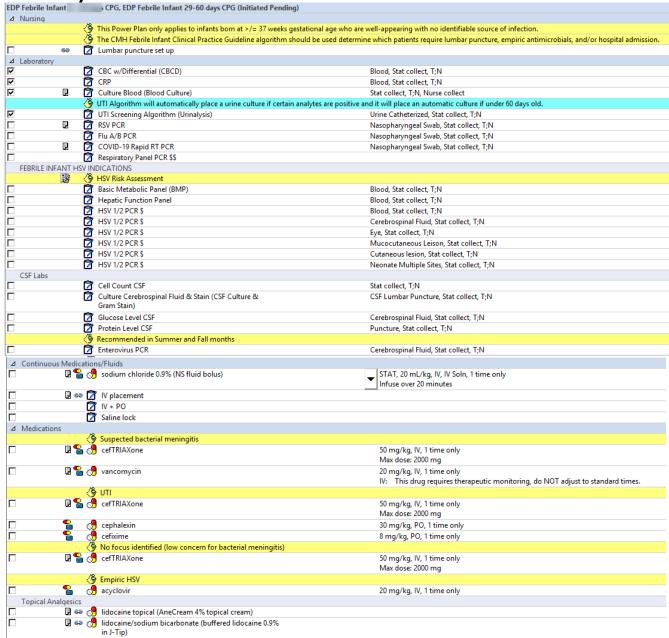




22-28 days



29-60 days



Inpatient Order Set



8-21 days





