

Children's Mercy Kansas City

SHARE @ Children's Mercy

Care Process Models

Quality Improvement and Clinical Safety

12-2021

Ambulatory Patients with a Central Line Presenting with a Fever

Children's Mercy Kansas City

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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.

Ambulatory Pt > 2 months of age with a CVL presents with a Fever (fever \geq 100.4F or 38C)

Acronyms/Abbreviations used in document:

CVL = Central venous line
EMR = Electronic Medical Record
ED = Emergency Department
pt = patient

Review [CVL details note in EMR](#) identifying what team manages the CVL and who to contact regarding the fever

Is pt. calling or presenting to outpatient setting?

Yes

No

Is the temperature measurement objective?

No

Remeasure either oral, rectal (unless medically contraindicated) or axillary. If unable to remeasure, treat as fever.

Does pt. have a fever or unable to remeasure?

Yes

Pt. off guideline, treat appropriately

Is pt. ill appearing or have signs and symptoms concerning for ED evaluation?

Yes

Refer to ED for evaluation including cultures

When referring to Children's Mercy ED, call 1-800-GO-MERCY, provide the following information, **if available**:

- History of present illness
- Pending lab results
- Presence of a CVL Details note
- Recommend consultation with the medical team managing the CL to develop:
 - the plan of care including antibiotic coverage
 - admission and discharge criteria

No

Is the fever > 38.5?

Yes

No

Any recent changes or concerns with the CVL itself?

Yes

Consult with the team managing the CVL and/or Infectious Disease to determine the appropriate setting for evaluation and cultures (i.e. clinic or local/CM ED)

Important note: Children's Mercy Urgent Care Clinics **do not** access central lines.

No

Notify team that manages CVL to:

- Develop plan such as cultures and evaluation, repeat temperature monitoring and criteria for family to call back or seek emergent care
- Identify team responsible for patient follow up

Consider the following factors for home monitoring:

- Height of temperature
- Previous infections or septic events
- Proximity or access to emergency services
- Family comfort level