

Hunter New England Health - Southern sector  
**ACUTE MANAGEMENT OF INFANTS AND CHILDREN < 3 yrs WITH FEVER**  
 (John Hunter & Maitland Hospitals)

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 MRN \_\_\_\_\_

**Triage:** Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

**Presenting Problem:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Priority:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Area:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Interpreter Required:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Triager Name (print):** \_\_\_\_\_ **Triager Name (signature)** \_\_\_\_\_

Highest recorded temp (*during this illness-state method*): \_\_\_\_\_ Age (in months): \_\_\_\_\_ Weight: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Time of Medical Review: \_\_\_\_\_

**INITIAL ASSESSMENT** (tick the feature below) – Remember to take a **thorough** history & examination.

CLINICAL STATUS	ACTION	INVESTIGATIONS	DISPOSITION
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>NEEDS RESUSCITATION</b>	<b>Commence Resuscitation</b> Get senior help	FBC, Blood Cultures, UEC, urine*, CXR, LP if no contraindications	Admit for IV Antibiotics
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>AGE &lt; 3 MONTHS</b>	<b>Senior review early</b>	FBC, Blood cultures, UEC, urine*, CXR, Consider LP	Admit for IV Antibiotics
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>TOXIC</b> <i>A 'toxic' child appears drowsy, lethargic or irritable, pale, mottled, tachycardic, has breathing difficulties</i>	<b>Treat as Priority 2 Triage</b>	FBC, Blood cultures, UEC, urine*, CXR, Consider LP.	Admit for IV Antibiotics

- If temp is 41 degrees or above, actively treat with anti-pyretics
- Beware of child with rash within 24 hrs of onset of illness

FOCUS OF INFECTION FOUND	ACTION	DISPOSITION
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>YES</b>	Investigate focus and treat as appropriate Consult Therapeutic Guidelines	Admit if requires IV Antibiotics
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>NO – Temp &lt; 39 (per axilla)</b>	Urine Culture* Consider alternative diagnosis	Discharge from ED with Fever fact sheet Clinical review next day
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>NO – Temp &gt; 39 (per axilla)</b>	FBC, blood culture and urine culture* <input type="checkbox"/> if WCC < 15,000	Discharge from ED with Fever fact sheet Clinical Review 12-24 hours
	<input type="checkbox"/> if WCC > 15,000, do urine culture*, B/C, CXR and consider LP	Senior Medical Review
<b>ANIT-PYRETICS:</b> <b>Doses:</b> Paracetamol: 15mg/kg 4/24 (max 4 doses in 24hrs) <b>OR</b> Ibuprofen: <b>not</b> recommended if <6 months old. Otherwise, 5-10mg/kg (6-8 hrly, max 4 doses in 24hrs)	<b>ANTIBIOTICS:</b> <b>0-3 months:</b> Ampicillin IV 50mg/kg 6/24 Gentamicin IV 7.5mg/kg Daily <b>&gt; 3 months:</b> Penicillin G IV 30mg/kg 4/24	

\*Urine sent for culture must be SPA, Catheter or Clean Catch.

**FOLLOW UP**

All children who are discharged home from the ED with fever should be followed up the following day, either in ED or by their family doctor, to detect progression of infection, response to treatment and results of investigations.  
 Provide family with letter to GP stating clinical diagnosis & investigations performed plus 'Fever' fact sheet.

**Doctor Name (print)** \_\_\_\_\_ **Doctor Name (signature)** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Time:** \_\_\_\_\_