Undifferentiated Febrile Illness in Young Infants

Your child has been admitted to the hospital for evaluation of fever. Tests of body fluids, including blood, urine and spinal fluid have been done. Cultures of these body fluids will be done in the laboratory.

The cultures can take up to 48 hours before results are known. Until that time, your child will be treated with antibiotics to treat the most common kinds of bacteria. The antibiotics will be given through an IV.

If any of the cultures show a bacterial infection, it will be determined what type of antibiotic will best fight the bacteria. The antibiotics may then need to be changed.

If the cultures do not show a bacterial infection, your child may be discharged from the hospital after 48 hours. Occasionally patients stay longer if fever continues or they are not feeding well.

Your child may return to daycare when he is feeling better. Your child's doctor will talk to you about the infection (i.e. whether it is contagious or not).

Call your child’s doctor or the Children’s Mercy Hospital Information Line at (816) 234-3188 if:

- Your child will not drink fluids or has not had a wet diaper or urinated for 12 hours.
- Your child’s fussiness increases.
- Your child develops a fever higher than 102° F (38.9° C).
- You have questions or concerns.