



QR code for mobile view

**Exclusion criteria:**

- Patients < 2 months of age
- Immunocompromised pts
- Patients receiving home mechanical ventilation
- Patients with underlying lung disease (e.g., cystic fibrosis), immunodeficiency, technology dependence, or other chronic conditions that may impact antibiotic selection

**Imaging**

- Chest X-ray is not routinely recommended for uncomplicated pneumonia.
- Consider chest X-ray in cases of diagnostic uncertainty, documented hypoxemia and respiratory distress, or failed initial antibiotic therapy to assess for complications of pneumonia

**Labs**

- Blood cultures may be obtained for hospitalized pts meeting the following criteria:
  - < 6 months of age with fever
  - Not fully immunized
  - Central venous catheter
  - Admission to ICU
  - Effusion or empyema on chest radiograph
- Additional labs, including CBC and inflammatory markers, are not routinely recommended for pts with uncomplicated CAP

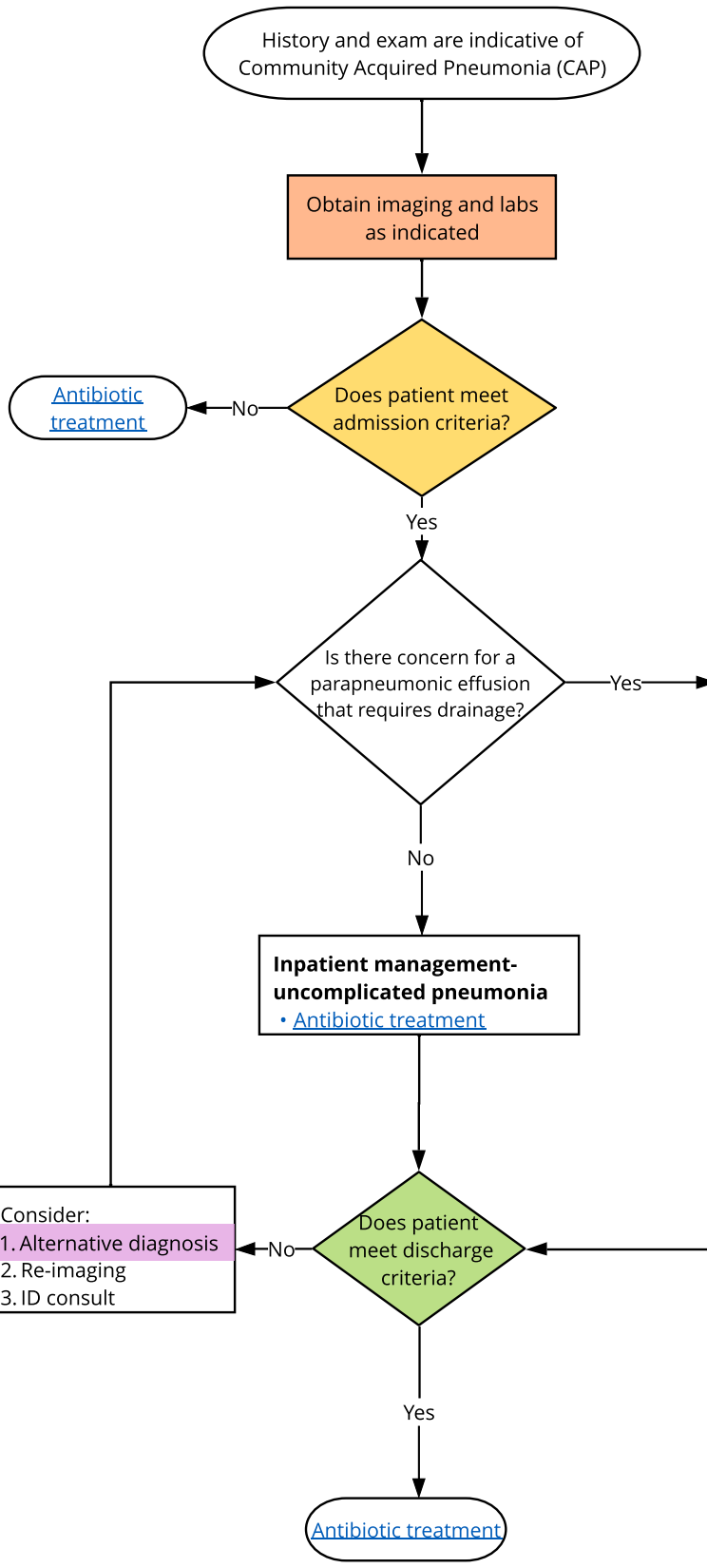
**IR**

- Consult IR for moderate to large parapneumonic effusions or empyema

**Alternative diagnoses:**

- Foreign body aspiration
- Aspiration pneumonia
- Tuberculosis or histoplasmosis\*
- Other uncommon infections of the lungs\*
- Tumor
- Anatomic malformation

\*ID consult recommended



**Admission criteria:**

- Moderate to severe CAP
  - Respiratory distress and/or hypoxemia (O<sub>2</sub> saturation < 90%)
- Concern for complicated pneumonia, including any of the following:
  - Moderate to large effusion
  - Empyema
  - Abscess
  - Necrosis

**Inpatient management-complicated pneumonia**

- [Antibiotic treatment](#)
- Imaging
  - In addition to initial chest X-ray, obtain chest ultrasound if presence of significant effusion or empyema
- ID consult
- IR consult

**Labs:**

- CBC with differential
- CRP (preferred instead of [procalcitonin](#))
- BMP
- Blood culture
- Pleural fluid studies:
  - Cell count
  - Body fluid culture
  - *S. aureus* / *S. pneumoniae* PCR

**Discharge criteria:**

- Consistent O<sub>2</sub> saturation ≥ 90% on room air
- Resolved work of breathing/tachypnea
- Tolerance of oral antibiotics and/or parents able to administer

**Abbreviations (laboratory & radiology excluded):**  
 IR = Interventional Radiology  
 ID = Infectious Diseases