

Clinical Decision Making for Well Appearing Febrile Infants Without Identifiable Source of Infection

Please refer to CMH CPG for full work up and antibiotic recommendations ([8-21 Days](#), [22-28 days](#), [29-60 days](#))

8-21 Days of Age

Inflammatory Markers	Urinalysis	Lumbar Puncture	Antibiotics	Disposition
Recommended	Positive or Negative	Perform LP	IV antibiotics	Admit [^]

22-28 Days of Age

Inflammatory Markers	Urinalysis	Lumbar Puncture	Antibiotics	Disposition
Negative	Negative	LP may be obtained*	LP not performed → option to admit off antibiotics LP performed → May give IV antibiotics* (required if CSF (+)) [#]	Observe in hospital [^] May discharge home if CSF (-), Ceftriaxone x 1 given* and f/u in 24-36 hours available
Negative	Positive	LP may be obtained*	IV antibiotics	Admit [^]
Positive	Positive or Negative	Perform LP, then: ----- If CSF is negative ----- If CSF is positive ----- If CSF is not obtained or uninterpretable	IV Antibiotics if UA positive ----- If UA negative and observing at home IV antibiotics If UA negative and admitting may administer IV antibiotics* ----- IV antibiotics ----- IV antibiotics	Admit [^] Admit [^] Admit [^]

29-60 Days of Age

Inflammatory Markers	Urinalysis	Lumbar Puncture	Antibiotics	Disposition
Negative	Negative	No LP	No antibiotics	Observe closely at home, f/u in 24-36 hours
Negative	Positive	No LP	Oral antibiotics	Observe closely at home, f/u in 24-36 hours
Positive	Negative	Perform LP, then:		
Positive	Positive	May perform LP*, then: IF CSF is negative ----- If CSF is positive [#] ----- If CSF is not obtained or uninterpretable	IV or oral antibiotics (if UA(+)) ----- IV antibiotics ----- IV Antibiotics	May observe in hospital or home* ----- Admit [^] ----- May observe in hospital or home*

[^]Discharge at 24-36 hours if cultures negative and clinically improving

* Opportunity for Shared Decision Making

[#] CSF positive defined as >15 WBC/mm³

This tool does not take into account patient's HSV risk status. Please consider your individual's patient's risk

ELEVATED INFLAMMATORY MARKERS (IM)

- C-reactive protein (CRP) ≥ 2.0 mg/dl (20 mg/L)
- Absolute neutrophil count (ANC) > 4,000
- Temperature > 38.5°C