



Emergency Department Policies and Procedures

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Policy Number:	5-07	Original Date Issued:	October 2001
Section:	Emergency Services	Date Reviewed:	
Title:	Caregiver Initiated Protocol: Febrile Infants	Date Revised:	January 2005
Regulatory Agency:	JCAHO		

I. GUIDELINE:

Care may be initiated for any patient < 28 days of age presenting to the ED with a fever ≥ 38 degrees Celsius or 100.4 Fahrenheit rectal. The "Emergency Care Medical Record" is used with these guidelines/protocols for the purpose of documenting the supporting physician's order. **Protocols will not be initiated if there is parental concern or objection or if the physician is readily available.**

Triage acuity should be assigned as "red"

II. PROCEDURE:

- A. The criteria for initiating this protocol includes:
 1. Age less than 28 days.
 2. Fever 38 degrees Celsius or 100.4 Fahrenheit or higher taken rectally.
 3. History of fever (as above) at home with or without antipyretics.
 4. Stable vital signs.
 5. No respiratory distress.
- B. Obtain a full set of vital signs including blood pressure.
- C. Place patient on a cardiac monitor.
- D. Perform urinary catheterization and obtain specimen for urinalysis and culture.
Send urinalysis and Urine Culture specimen to lab.
- E. Draw and send to lab the following:
Complete blood count with differential Blood Cultures
** Draw and hold red and green top tube.
- F. Insert peripheral intravenous catheter if this can be done without difficulty while obtaining blood for labs.
- G. Set up for Lumbar Puncture after checking with the physician.
- H. Notify MD when patient is ready for examination.
- I. Caregiver will document in the Electronic Medical Record that protocols were initiated.
- J. Physician will sign all orders prior to discharge from the ED.

Source: Children's Healthcare of Atlanta.