

# Children's Wisconsin

## Co-Management Guidelines

To support collaborative care, we have developed guidelines for our community providers to utilize when referring to, and managing patients with, the pediatric specialists at Children's Wisconsin. These guidelines provide protocols for jointly managing patient cases between community providers and our pediatric specialists.

## Subcutaneous Abscess

Symptoms:	Referring provider's initial evaluation and management:	When to refer to General Surgery:	What can referring provider send to Surgery?	Workup in General Surgery clinic will likely include:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fever</li><li>• Pain</li><li>• Cellulitis</li><li>• Drainage</li><li>• Induration</li><li>• Warmth at the site</li><li>• Tachycardia</li></ul>	<p><b>Evaluation:</b> Abscess is noted on clinical exam:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Induration</li><li>• Erythema</li><li>• Fluctuance</li></ul><p><b>Drainage*</b> If unsure if abscess present and imaging readily available, obtain ultrasound.</p><p><b>Management:</b></p><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No abscess, cellulitis only: Systemic antibiotics at provider's discretion</li><li>• Small, non-drainable abscess: Topical <u>mupirocin</u> and warm compresses</li><li>• Exam consistent with abscess (fluctuance, drainage): Incision and drainage +/- systemic oral antibiotics at provider's discretion</li></ul></p>	<p><b>*Send directly to Emergency Department if:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Toxic-appearing</li><li>• Hemodynamically unstable</li><li>• Rapidly progressing cellulitis</li><li>• Concern for bacteremia (pneumonia, bone or joint involvement)</li><li>• Immunocompromised</li><li>• Complex abscess or size is greater than 5 cm with cellulitis and/or induration</li><li>• Age &lt;3 months</li><li>• Temp &gt;38.3 and age &lt;1 year if abscess is located on the face, genitalia, or hands</li><li>• Failed simple drainage at same site</li></ul>	<p>If urgent or emergent, please call the Physician Consultation Line at (800) 266-0366</p> <p><b>Internal provider using Epic:</b> Place Ambulatory Referral to Surgery</p> <p><b>External Provider using EPIC:</b> Please complete the external referral order to CHW SURGERY CLINICS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- or -</li></ul> <p>Fax to Central Scheduling at (414) 607-5288</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- or -</li></ul> <p>Online <a href="#">ambulatory referral form</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Urgency of referral</li><li>• Question to be answered</li><li>• Chief complaint including onset, frequency</li><li>• Recent progress note or office note</li><li>• Labs and imaging results</li><li>• Pictures if feasible</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review of clinical history, physical exam, and if indicated imaging (most commonly an ultrasound).</li></ul>



For questions concerning this work,  
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Susan Becker, PA-C  
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## References

Evidenced-based guidance issued for treating MRSA infections. Jackson, MA. AAP News 2011;32;1

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\*Approved by Specialty Medical Leader, CSG Clinical Integration, CMG Clinical Guidelines Core Team

## Medical Disclaimer

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