

Seizure: Febrile (Simple and Complex)

Associated Power Plans: EDP Simple and Complex Febrile Seizure Pathway; Simple and Complex Febrile Seizure Pathway



Children's Mercy
KANSAS CITY

Evidence Based Practice

Inclusion criteria

- Child between ages of 6 - 60 months
- Typical neurodevelopment
- Fever at or near the time of the seizure

Note. Seizures may be provoked by acute illness without fever. However, if there was no known fever, contact Neurology for guidance

Exclusion criteria

- If presently experiencing a seizure > 5 minutes, see [Status Epilepticus Clinical Pathway](#)
- Child > 60 months of age
- Known underlying condition (e.g., an inborn error of metabolism)
- History of non-febrile seizures
- Recent history of head trauma or concern for non-accidental trauma (NAT)

Definition of SIMPLE Febrile Seizure

- Lasting < 15 minutes, **and**
- Occurring once within a 24-hour period, **and**
- No focal features

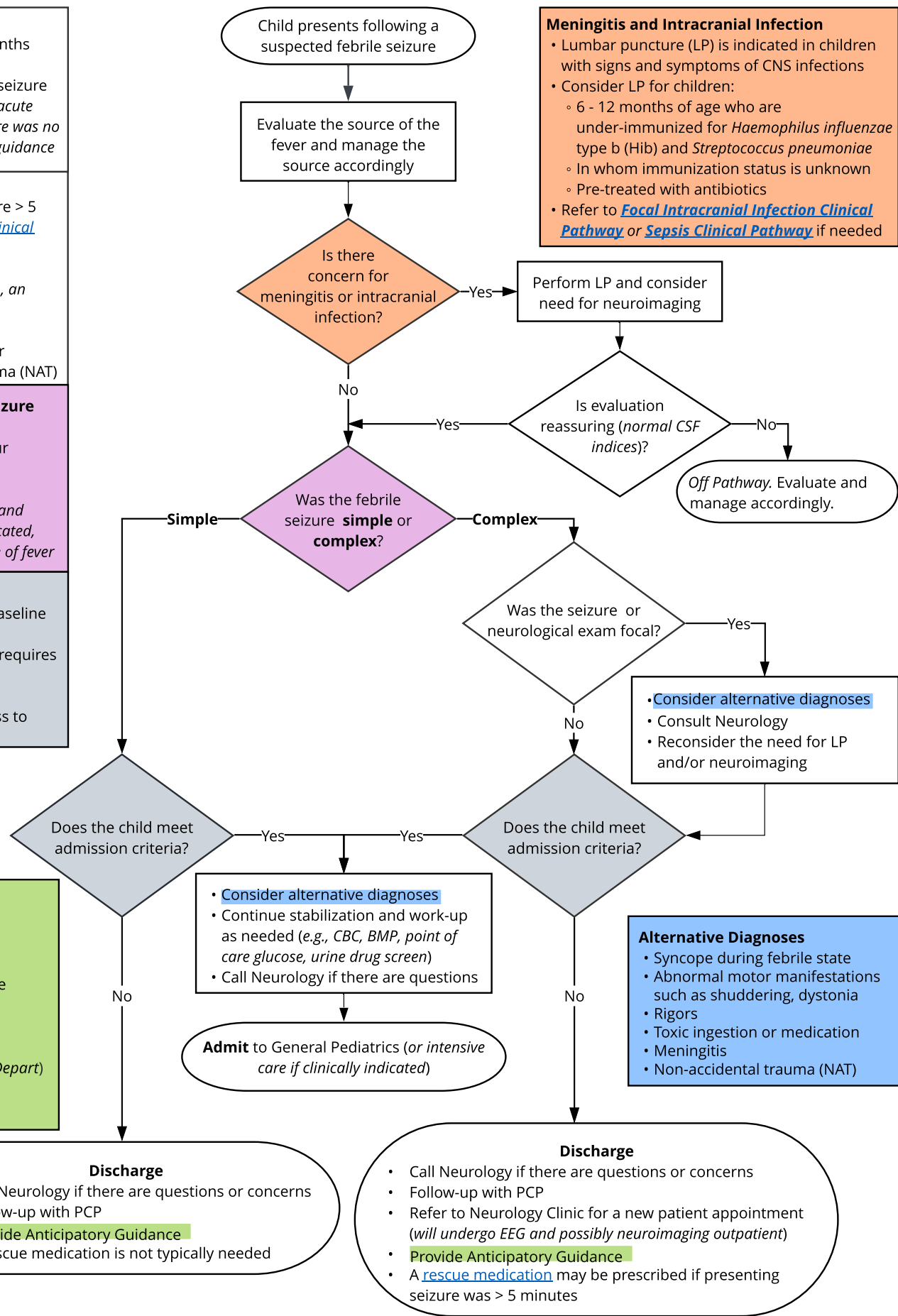
Note. Electroencephalogram (EEG) and neuroimaging are not typically indicated, unless needed to identify the source of fever

Admission Criteria

- Not returning to neurological baseline within 4 - 6 hours
- The infection causing the fever requires hospitalization
- Clinical status is unstable
- There are concerns about access to medical care

Meningitis and Intracranial Infection

- Lumbar puncture (LP) is indicated in children with signs and symptoms of CNS infections
- Consider LP for children:
 - 6 - 12 months of age who are under-immunized for *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib) and *Streptococcus pneumoniae*
 - In whom immunization status is unknown
 - Pre-treated with antibiotics
- Refer to [Focal Intracranial Infection Clinical Pathway](#) or [Sepsis Clinical Pathway](#) if needed



Anticipatory Guidance

- Explain risk of recurrence
- Educate on seizure first aid
- Discuss future fevers
- Discuss age-appropriate seizure precautions
- Provide follow-up plan
- [Frequently asked questions](#)

Discharge Instructions (also in Depart)

- [Simple Febrile Seizure](#)
- [Complex Febrile Seizure](#)

Alternative Diagnoses

- Syncope during febrile state
- Abnormal motor manifestations such as shuddering, dystonia
- Rigors
- Toxic ingestion or medication
- Meningitis
- Non-accidental trauma (NAT)



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