

ED OBSERVATION UNIT: ORTHOPEDICS PROTOCOL

NYC H+H KINGS COUNTY HOSPITAL CENTER

General Observation Guidelines apply for all ED observation patients.

INCLUSION CRITERIA

- Patients with hand cellulitis* without abscess requiring <24 hours of Observation
- Patients with abscess status post I&D requiring <24 hours of Observation
- Patients with suspected flexor tenosynovitis requiring <24 hours of Observation
- Patients with clenched-fist bite wounds requiring <24 hours of Observation
- Patients with animal bite wounds requiring <24 hours of Observation
- Patients with penetrating injuries requiring <24 hours of Observation
- Failed outpatient therapy or clinician determined requirement for IV antibiotics

*Hand cellulitis as defined in the “Kings County Multi-Disciplinary Upper Extremity Protocol 2.1.2017.” Thus, cellulitis may extend proximally on the upper extremity as long as the hand infection is the primary focus

EXCLUSION CRITERIA

- Suspected or confirmed severe sepsis
- Immunosuppression (e.g cirrhosis, neutropenia, asplenia, long term systemic steroids and/or immunosuppressive therapy)
- Suspicion for necrotizing fasciitis
- Deep space hand abscesses requiring surgical I&D
- Extensive tissue damage, sloughing

INTERVENTIONS

- Antibiotics (IV)
- Analgesics and Anti-inflammatories
- Limb elevation/immobilization
- Imaging, if indicated
- Care management if indicated
- IV Fluids as needed

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Reviewed by Dr. Brewster, Dr. Baron, Dr. Koehler, Dr. Youssef

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<i>DISPOSITION</i>	
Home: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improvement in clinical condition• Area of cellulitis not increasing• Able to tolerate po antibiotics	Admission: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Spread or worsening of infection• Signs of systemic illness• No response to therapy or rising WBC