

ED OBSERVATION UNIT: CELLULITIS PROTOCOL

NYC H+H KINGS COUNTY HOSPITAL CENTER

General Observation Guidelines apply for all ED observation patients.

INCLUSION CRITERIA

- Drainage of abscess if present
- Failed outpatient therapy or clinician determined requirement for IV antibiotics

EXCLUSION CRITERIA

- Suspected or confirmed severe sepsis
- Immunosuppression
- Peri-orbital or orbital cellulitis
- Suspicion for necrotizing fasciitis, fournier's gangrene or ludwig's angina
- Associated with bite/puncture wound, or diabetic ulcer
- Face or hand cellulitis indicates evaluation by orthopedics or general surgery for admission to their service
- Post operative infection
- Extensive tissue damage, sloughing

INTERVENTIONS

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

DISPOSITION

Home:

- Improvement in clinical condition
- Area of cellulitis not increasing

Admission:

- Spread or worsening of infection
- Signs of systemic illness
- No response to therapy or rising WBC

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