CELLULITIS / SOFT TISSUE INFECTION

CDU INCLUSION CRITERIA

- Clinical picture consistent with superficial cellulitis
- Margins outlined with ink pen
- Stable vital signs (SBP>100, HR<110, Temp ≤40 degrees C)
- First dose of antibiotics given
- Patient immunocompetent
- Potential to discharge in 23 hours

CDU EXCLUSION CRITERIA

- Associated sepsis or unstable vital signs
- Failed outpatient treatment
- Periorbital or intraocular infection
- Etiology from animal or human bite to the face or hand
- Significant skin involvement (>50% of limb or >10% of BSA)
- Suspicion for necrotizing fasciitis
- Suspicion for osteomyelitis (if performed, x-rays negative)
- Need for operative intervention for infection (complicated abscess)
- Patient immunocompromised or elderly (>75 yo)
- Acute altered mental status
- Unable to ambulate or not at baseline of ADLs
- Requires 1:1 nursing observation

CDU INTERVENTIONS AS INDICATED

- Serial vital signs and re-evaluations
- IV antibiotics, IV fluids
- Analgesics
- Laboratory, imaging studies
- Picc line placement
- Consultations (ex. Surgery, Infectious Disease, home care)
- Wound care education

CDU DISPOSITION

Home
- Stable labs and vital signs at disposition
- Improved clinical condition, pain resolved or significantly improved
- No need for further incision and drainage
• No diagnosis requiring hospitalization
• Able to perform wound care at home or home care arranged as necessary
• Tolerating adequate PO diet & able to take oral medications
• Consultant agreement if involved in decision making
• Adequate follow-up plan established

Admit
• Not improved or worsening condition or pertinent lab values
• Requires ongoing IV antibiotic therapy
• PO intolerance
• Unable to care for wound at home, home care unavailable
• Positive findings that require hospitalization
• EP or consultant discretion