

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