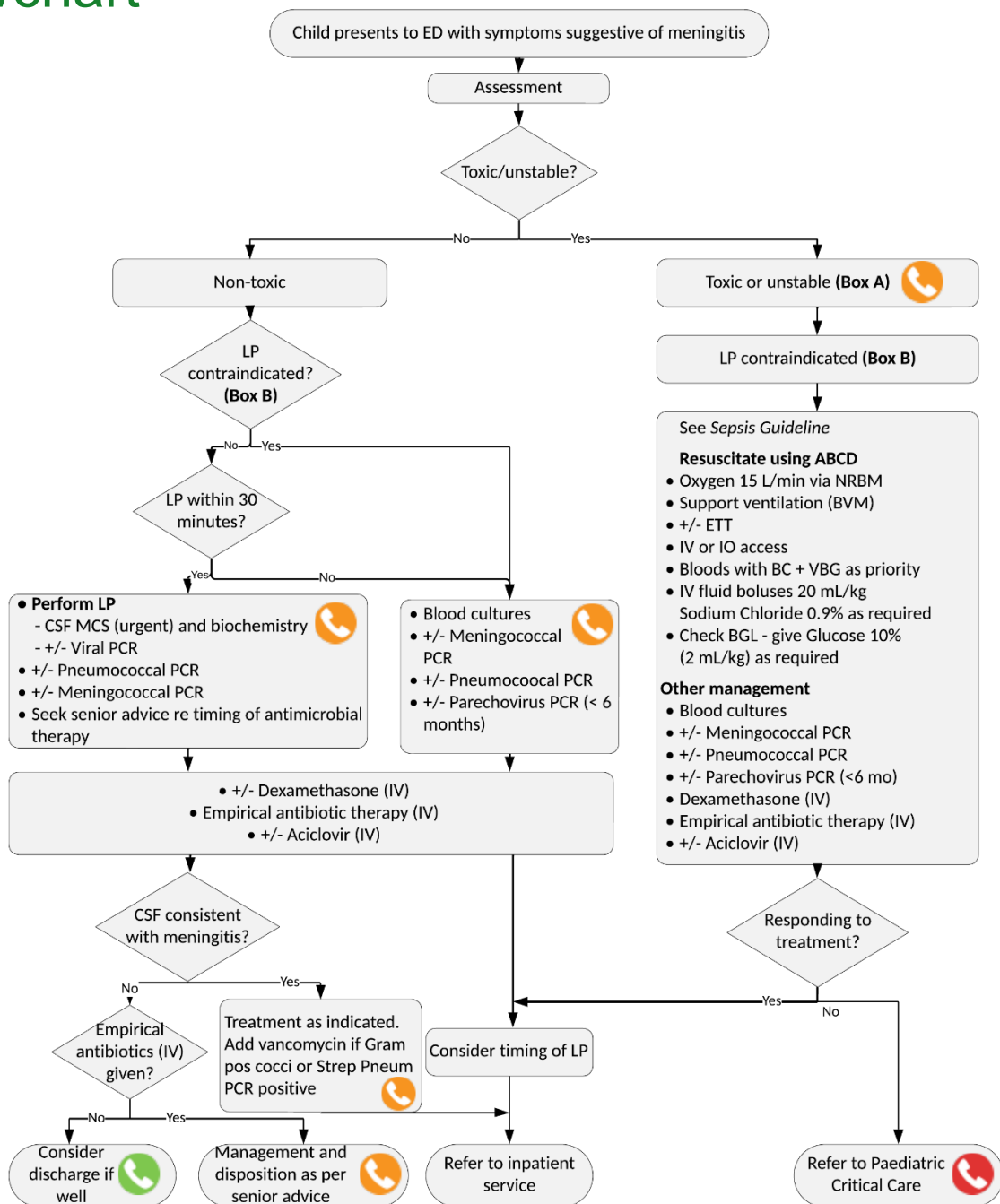


Queensland Paediatric Flowchart and Medications

Emergency

Meningitis - Emergency management in children – Flowchart



Box A: Toxic or unstable

- Altered level of consciousness or obtundation
- Signs of shock
- Coagulopathy
- Refractory seizures

Box B: Contraindications to lumbar puncture (LP)

- Focal neurological signs
- Signs of raised intracranial pressure
- Reduced level of consciousness
- Haemodynamic instability
- Respiratory compromise

Call Retrieval Services Queensland (RSQ) on 1300 799 127 if no paediatric critical care facility onsite

Seek senior emergency/paediatric advice as per local practices

Consider seeking senior emergency/paediatric advice as per local practices

CHQ-GDL-60008-1 Meningitis– Emergency management in children – Flowchart V3.0



Meningitis – Emergency management in children – Medications

Antimicrobial guidelines

Clinicians working in Townsville, Cairns and Gold Coast Hospital and Health Services should follow their local paediatric empirical antimicrobial therapy guidelines. Clinicians elsewhere in Queensland should follow the Children's Health Queensland paediatric antimicrobial prescribing guidelines until the results of microbiological investigations are available.

Links:

- [Cairns](#) (access via QH intranet)
- [Children's Health Queensland](#)
- [Gold Coast](#)
- [Townsville](#) (access via QH intranet)
- [Queensland Statewide Paediatric Sepsis Clinical Pathway](#)

Dexamethasone (IV) dosing for the treatment for meningitis in children over 3 months of age

Dexamethasone (IV)

For children over 3 months of age:
0.15 mg/kg (maximum 10 mg/dose), every six hours for four days if able to start prior to or within one hour of first antibiotic IV dose.

If not available, do not delay antibiotics.

Normal CSF values

	White cell count		Biochemistry	
	Neutrophils (x 10 ⁶ /L)	Lymphocytes (x 10 ⁶ /L)	Protein (g/L)	Glucose (CSF:blood ratio)
Normal (more than 1 month of age)	0	≤ 5	< 0.4	≥ 0.6 (or ≥ 2.5 mmol/L)
Normal neonate (less than 1 month of age)	0	< 20	<1.0	≥ 0.6 (or ≥ 2.5 mmol/L)

Taken from The Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne, Australia, Clinical Practice Guideline on *CSF Interpretation*, [Internet; cited June 18], Available from: <https://www.rch.org.au/clinicalguide/>

