



1. Perform Complete H&P:

- History: Include duration/course, fever, trauma, weight bearing, tick exposure, rash, recent viral or strep infection, antibiotic use.
PE: Include vital signs, hip exam, walking status, back, GU exam, neurologic, abdomen, complete joint exam and skin. (If other diagnosis made, concern for non-hip pathology or any exclusion criteria noted -> exit algorithm.)

2. Lab criteria (any of below):

- Inability to weight bear.
Temp >=38 or documented fever at home.
Clinical concern for septic hip (e.g. ill-appearing, pain with minimal movement/marked pain with movement).

3. Criteria for Ultrasound (>=2 of below):

- Wbc >12
Esr >40
CRP >2
Temp >=38
Persistent inability to weight bear
or
high clinical concern

4. Fluid concerning for septic arthritis (any of below):

- Joint fluid with >25,000 wbc
Positive gram stain
Patient highly concerning for septic joint clinically

5. Discharge Criteria:

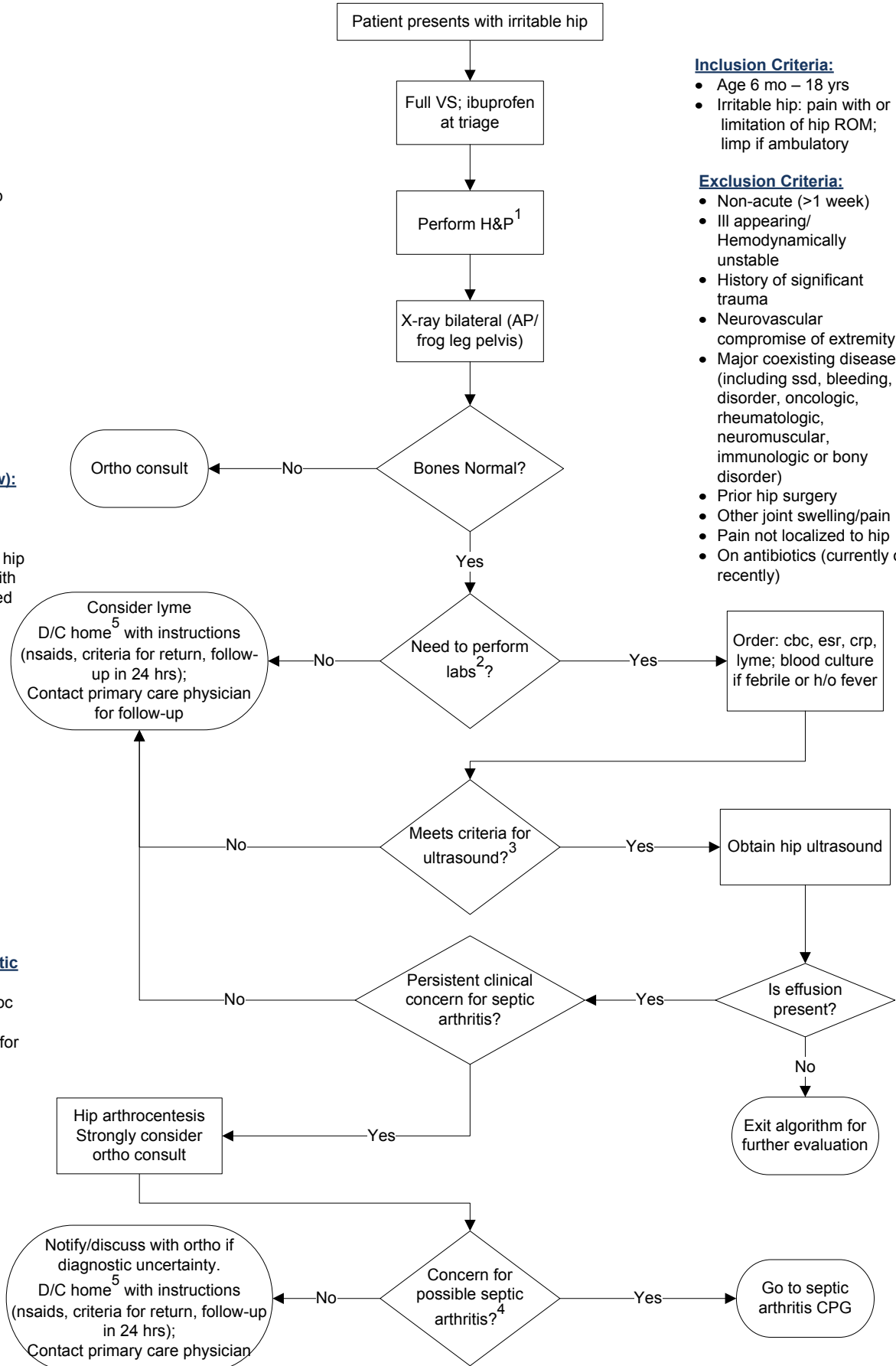
- Nontoxic
Reliable caretaker
Able to follow-up and return in needed

Inclusion Criteria:

- Age 6 mo - 18 yrs
Irritable hip: pain with or limitation of hip ROM; limp if ambulatory

Exclusion Criteria:

- Non-acute (>1 week)
Ill appearing/Hemodynamically unstable
History of significant trauma
Neurovascular compromise of extremity
Major coexisting disease (including ssd, bleeding, disorder, oncologic, rheumatologic, neuromuscular, immunologic or bony disorder)
Prior hip surgery
Other joint swelling/pain
Pain not localized to hip
On antibiotics (currently or recently)



NOTE: The medication dosing contained within these guidelines is provided for reference only. Please refer to your institutional formulary or ordering guidelines when placing orders for clinical care of patients.