

Evaluating the Management of Febrile Infants (Less than 90 Days) Presenting to Tallaght Ed- Completed Audit Cycle

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Abstract : Aim: Fever may present as the sole sign of a serious underlying infection in young infants. Febrile Infants aged less than 90 days are at an elevated susceptibility to invasive bacterial infections, thus presenting a challenge in ensuring the appropriate management of these cases. This study aims to ensure strict adherence to NICE guidelines for the management of fever in infants between 0 and 90 days presenting to Tallaght Hospital ED. A comprehensive audit, followed by a re-audit, was conducted to enhance the quality of care delivered to these patients. In accordance with NICE guidelines, all febrile infants should undergo blood tests. Additionally, LP should be performed in all neonates under 28 days, infants displaying signs of illness, and those with WCC below 5 or above 15. Method: A retrospective case review was performed, encompassing all patients aged between 0 to 90 days who presented with fever at Tallaght ED. Data retrieval was conducted from electronic records on two separate occasions, six months apart. The evaluation encompassed the assessment of body temperature as well as both partial and full septic workups. Results: Over the study period, 150 infants presented to the ED with fever in the initial audit, and 120 in the re-audit. In the first study, 81 patients warranted a full septic workup as per NICE, but only 48 received it. Conversely, 40 patients met criteria for a partial septic workup, with 12 undergoing blood tests. In the second study, 73 patients qualified for a full septic workup, of which 52 were completed. Additionally, 27 patients were indicated for a partial workup, with 20 undergoing blood tests. Conclusion: Managing febrile infants under three months of age presenting to Tallaght ED remains a persistent challenge, underscoring the need for continuous educational initiatives to guarantee that these patients receive the requisite assessments and treatments.

Keywords : infants, fever, septic workup, tallaght

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