ED CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINE
SKIN AND SOFT TISSUE INFECTION (SSTI) (AKA ABSCESS/CELLULITIS)
Suspected skin/soft tissue infection in children ≥ 2 months old

INCLUSION CRITERIA
- A confined purulent collection of fluid with localized pain, redness, swelling & warmth
- Fluctuant, actively draining, fluid collection, or purulent collection confirmed on US
- Redness of skin with infection

EXCLUSION CRITERIA*
- Hospital-acquired, surgical site & device-associated infections
- Presumed necrotizing fasciitis
- Immunodeficiency/Immunocompromised
- Pressure ulcers
- Diabetes
- Ill appearing patient
- Age < 2 months
- Rapidly progressing cellulitis

*The following soft tissue infections are excluded from the Guideline. Consider obtaining a subspecialist consult.
- Purulent Neck Lymphadenitis
- Mastitis
- Orbital/periorbital abscess
- Perianal abscess
- Perianal/perirectal abscess
- Pilonidal cyst
- Solitary dental abscess
- Severe rapidly progressive Cellulitis

Developed through the efforts of Children's Healthcare of Atlanta and physicians on Children’s medical staff in the interest of advancing pediatric healthcare. This is a general guideline and does not represent a professional care standard governing providers' obligation to patients. Ultimately the patient’s physician must determine the most appropriate care. © 2019 Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta, Inc.