



Please see the [ANMC Pediatric Acute Hematogenous Septic Arthritis/Osteomyelitis Guideline](#).

- Please note: this guideline was designed at ANMC, where recommended labs, MRI, and operative management are immediately available and antibiotics can be started after these interventions.
- When evaluating a patient at YKHC with possible septic arthritis or osteomyelitis, strongly consider empiric antibiotics if there is going to be a delay of >6 hours to perform the recommended work-up (joint aspiration, surgical drainage, etc.), as noted in ANMC's guideline.
- Always discuss antibiotics with ANMC consultants and advocate for empiric usage if appropriate. Keep in mind possible delays, including weather, transport difficulties, and other emergencies. If deferring antibiotics, ensure that patient is closely monitored for development of worsening infection.
- Always feel free to consult YKHC pediatric hospitalist with any questions.