

# Boils — Outpatient

MSEC reviewed and approved 11/20/13

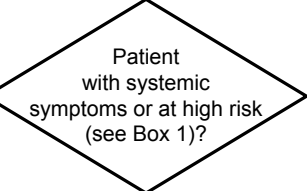
**Box 1:**  
**High Risk Patients:**  
 - Diabetes  
 - Immunosuppression  
 - Peripheral vascular disease  
 - Children <12 months  
 - Abscess/cellulitis on lower extremity or hand (concern for palmar space infection)  
**Systemic symptoms:**  
 - Temp > 100.4  
 - Tachycardia  
 - Patient feels ill

**PREVENTION**

- Clean all steambath seating areas in the main steambath AND on the porch with a dilute bleach solution (1:10 dilution).
- Clean steambath frequently if many people are using it.
- Sit on a barrier that is cleaned with bleach after every use.
- Do not take steam baths when skin infection present.

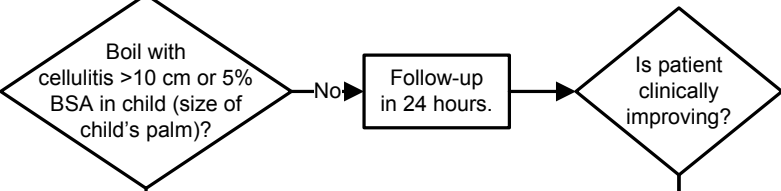
**Box 2: Empiric Oral Antibiotic Therapy**  
**Adults:**  
 • Septra DS 2 tab PO q12 hours or  
 • Septra SS 4 tabs PO q12 hours x10 days  
 (Do not give to pregnant women > 32 wks or <9 weeks)  
**Children:**  
 • Septra 5-7.5 mg/kg PO q12 hours x10 days.  
**Adult with sulfa allergy:**  
 • Doxycycline 100mg PO q12 hours x10 days.  
**Children with sulfa allergy:**  
 • ≥8 years: Doxycycline 2 mg/kg PO q12 hours x10 days. (Max dose 100 mg/dose.)  
 • <8 years: Clindamycin 10 mg/kg PO q8 hours x10 days. (Max dose 300 mg/dose.)  
**Pregnant Women:**  
 • Clindamycin 300mg PO q8 hours x10 days  
 Consult HROB if not improving in 48 hours

Pus pocket or well-defined, tender, firm, red mass present?



See Severe Abscess/Cellulitis Clinical Guideline

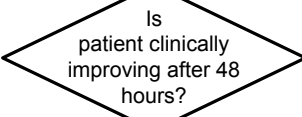
Perform incision and drainage after anesthetizing with lidocaine and remember to address pain.  
 Culture wound and break up any loculations if possible  
 Hot packs/soaks q2-4 hours and rest/elevation if cellulitis present



Follow-up in 24 hours.

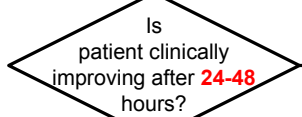


Evaluate in Bethel. Consider oral antibiotic therapy (See Box 2) and/or repeat incision and drainage.



Daily follow-up until continuous improvement is demonstrated

Start or change antibiotics. Perform repeat incision and drainage if appropriate. Follow-up daily.



Admit to inpatient unit and follow Severe Abscess/Cellulitis Clinical Guideline

**Bleach Baths**  
 Start bleach baths daily for one week and then 1-2 times per week for all household contacts  
 • ¼ cup household bleach in a standard sized tub of water  
 OR  
 • 1.5 mL household bleach per gallon of water for smaller tubs

This guideline is designed for general use for most patients but may need to be adapted to meet the special needs of a specific patient as determined by the patient's provider