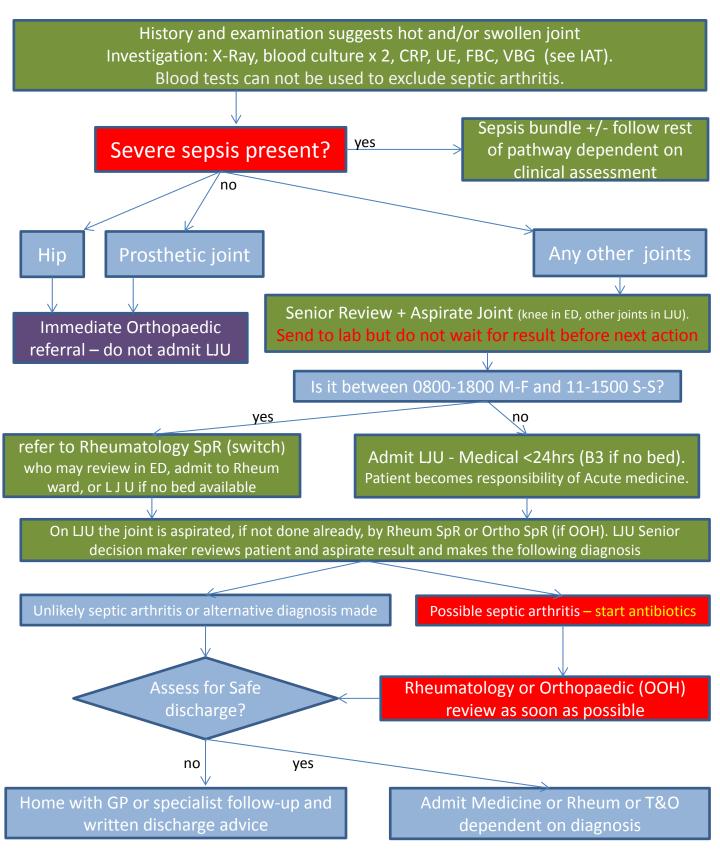
NUH ED pathway for all adult patient presenting with hot/swollen joint (s)



Version 3 -Developed by Adrian Jones (Rheum) and Jaimie Coleman (ED) 29/4/14 review date 29/4/14 Agreed between Dr Weston (Microbiology), Dr Le Jeune (AM), Mr Hunter (T&O)

Septic joint comments

- 30% patients will have no fever
- 20% will have little pain
- 30% will have a normal WCC and ESR
- CRP most sensitive blood test to exclude , although can be negative if on tocilizumab therapy
- Gram stain only positive in 50%
- Crystals can be found in 3%
- Rare in the wrist, common in knee, hip, shoulder
- Unless severe sepsis aim for aspiration before antibiotics
- Pitfalls 1. trauma increases risk. 2. usually a 1-2 day history
- Outcomes 1/3 will have lasting joint problems, 40% will make full recovery, 10% will die.