

Investigation for Septic Arthritis  
Emergency Department – Observation Unit

Attach Patient Label Here	Date of Admission	
	ED Care Provider Name	
	Signature	

- Patients can be admitted to Observation while awaiting results and/or Orthopaedic review.

Observation Unit Criteria	Exclusion Criteria
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NEWS2 <math>\leq</math> 4</li> <li>• Bloods &amp; joint aspirate sent</li> <li>• Orthopaedics aware of patient</li> <li>• Likely length of stay &lt;12 hours</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NEWS2 &gt; 4</li> </ul>

Baseline Investigations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FBC, U&amp;Es, LFTs, CRP, ESR</li> <li>• Joint Aspirate</li> </ul>

Prescribing Guidance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> </ul> <p><i>The above recommendations may not be appropriate for all patients and should be checked before prescribing.</i></p>

Observation Frequency <i>Circle as indicated</i>			
30 Minutes	1 Hourly	2 Hourly	4 Hourly

Requires trolley? <i>Circle as indicated</i>	
Yes	No – suitable for chair

Additional Instructions

Observation Unit Discharge Criteria	Hospital Admission Criteria
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reviewed by Doctor or Orthopaedics who feel no evidence of Septic Arthritis</li> <li>Pain controlled</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Confirmed Septic Arthritis</li> </ul>

Observation Unit Discharge Checklist		
Discharge notes completed on TRAK		
Discharge medications prescribed		
Patient information leaflet provided		
Discharged By	Name	Signature