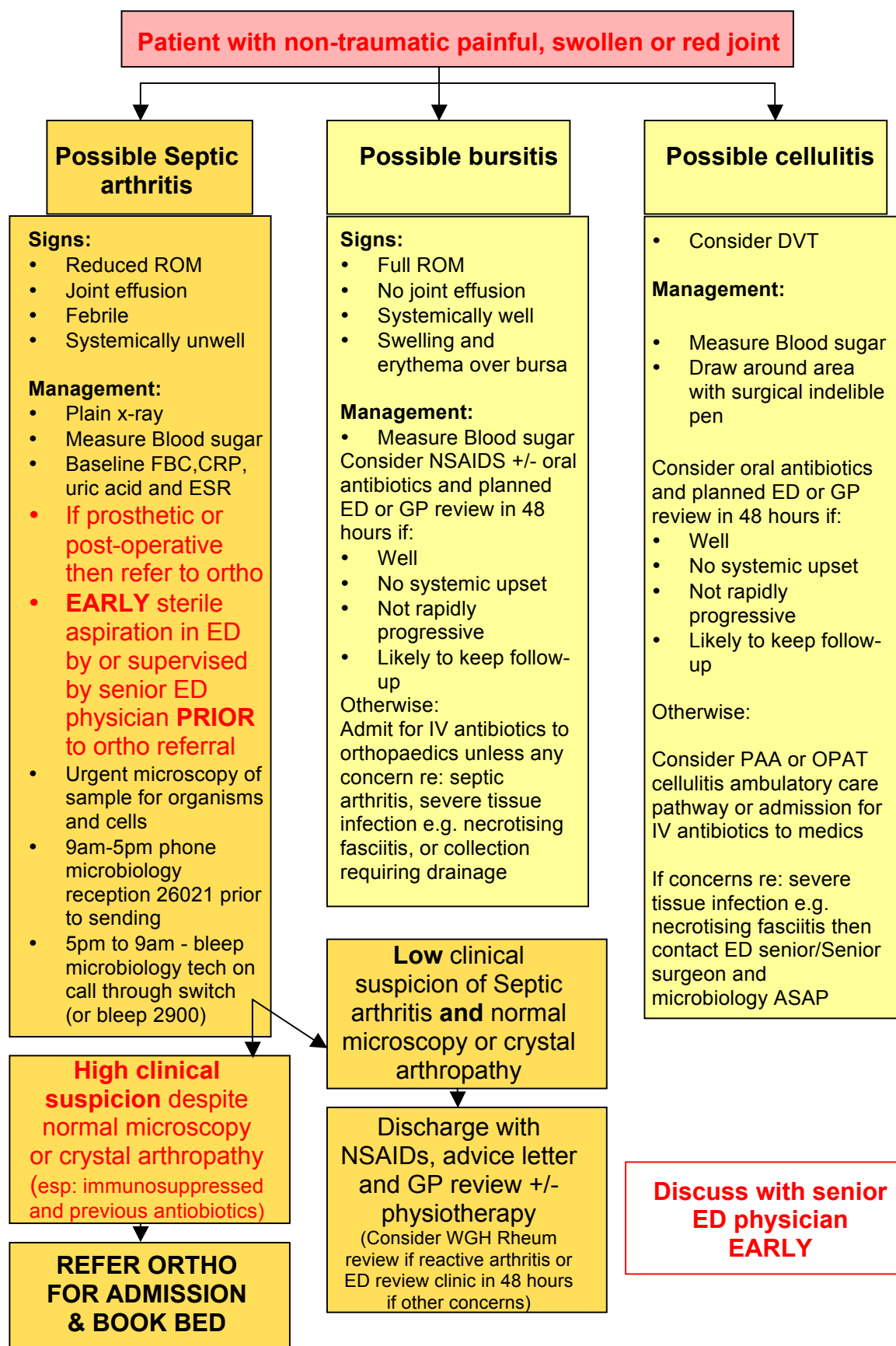


## RIE ED guideline for management of patients with a non-traumatic painful, swollen or red joint





## **Non-traumatic hot swollen joint Patient Discharge Information Sheet**

You have attended the Emergency Department today because of a painful joint. The most important condition that may cause this is Septic Arthritis, which is an infection in a joint. Symptoms can include pain and tenderness over a joint, pain on moving the joint, and feeling unwell. It is an uncommon problem, but is however serious as without urgent treatment, permanent joint damage can occur. The Emergency Department team have asked you some questions about what has happened, examined your joint and have run some tests and feel that the diagnosis of Septic Arthritis is not likely.

We are therefore happy that you can be discharged from the Emergency Department today. We may have arranged for you to be seen again in the Emergency Department review clinic in 2-3 days time to ensure you are improving. If in the meantime you develop any of the following you should re-attend the Emergency Department prior to your planned appointment for further review.

### **Worsening general symptoms**

Feeling generally unwell with a fever (high temperature)

### **Worsening pain from the affected joint.**

In septic arthritis, the pain tends to be severe and any movement of the joint is usually very painful

### **Worsening swelling from the affected joint.**

In septic arthritis, swelling usually develops over the affected joint, which is usually very tender

### **Worsening redness over the affected joint**

In septic arthritis, redness of the overlying skin is typical