

# MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE – ACUTE MANAGEMENT - ED

## PRACTICE GUIDELINE<sup>®</sup>

### DOCUMENT SUMMARY/KEY POINTS

#### Paediatric Improvement Collaborative Guideline

#### Acute meningococcal disease

[https://www.rch.org.au/clinicalguide/guideline\\_index/Acute\\_meningococcal\\_disease/](https://www.rch.org.au/clinicalguide/guideline_index/Acute_meningococcal_disease/)

- The above linked document is a Paediatric Improvement Collaborative Guideline.
- IV ceftriaxone/cefotaxime should be given as soon as meningococcal disease is suspected. If unavailable, give benzylpenicillin
- If IV access cannot be obtained within 15 minutes, administer IM or IO
- Collect blood cultures prior to antibiotics if possible, but do not delay antibiotic administration
- Children can become sick rapidly with sepsis/septic shock and may require large volumes of fluid resuscitation and cardiorespiratory support with inotropes and ventilation. Seek senior help early.
- For antibiotic dosing at CHW and SCH please refer to the relevant Empiric antibiotic guidelines:
  - [CHW - Empiric Antibiotic "Swing card" \(current\)](#)
  - [Empiric Antibiotic Guidelines - SCH](#)
  - [Empiric Antibiotic Guidelines - CHW](#)
- See next page for related information

This document reflects what is currently regarded as safe practice. However, as in any clinical situation, there may be factors which cannot be covered by a single set of guidelines. This document does not replace the need for the application of clinical judgement to each individual presentation.

<b>Approved by:</b>	SCHN Policy, Procedure and Guideline Committee	
<b>Date Effective:</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> March 2022	<b>Review Period:</b> 3 years
<b>Team Leader:</b>	Staff Specialist	<b>Area/Dept:</b> Emergency Department

## Related Information and SCHN Guidelines

- Invasive Meningococcal Disease – Infection Prevention and Control (*soon to be released*)
- [Fever and Petechial Rash on Home Intravenous Therapy – Patient Management](#)
- [Meningococcal Infection – Infection Control Management - CHW](#)
- [Meningococcal Disease - NETS](#)
- [Fever – ED Management - SCH](#)
- [Fever under 5 years – Assessment and Management in ED - CHW](#)
- [Meningitis and Encephalitis – Acute Management](#)

## CHANGE SUMMARY

- Replaced Meningococcal Disease Management - SCH (SCHN Policy No 2016-7002)

## READ ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

- All clinical staff working in Emergency Departments should read and acknowledge they understand the contents of the policy directive.

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