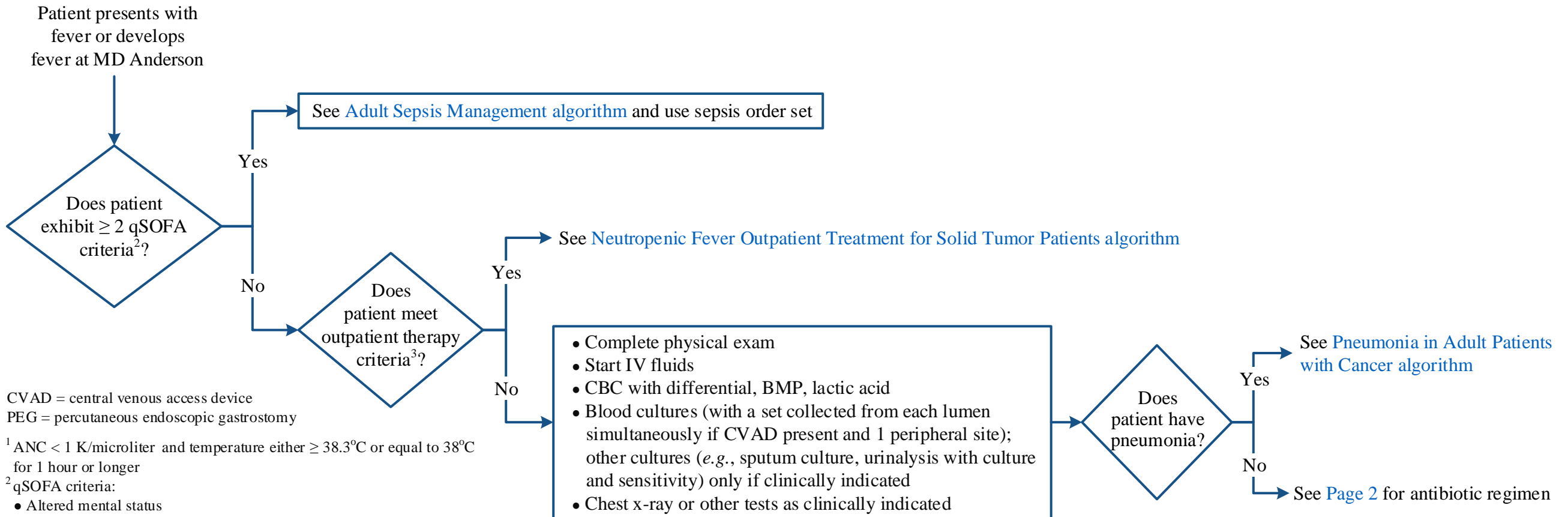


# Neutropenic Fever<sup>1</sup> Inpatient Adult Treatment (Solid Tumors)

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**Note:** This algorithm should not be used for patients receiving chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) cell therapy.



CVAD = central venous access device  
 PEG = percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy

<sup>1</sup> ANC < 1 K/microliter and temperature either ≥ 38.3°C or equal to 38°C for 1 hour or longer

<sup>2</sup> qSOFA criteria:

- Altered mental status
- Respiratory rate ≥ 22 bpm
- Systolic blood pressure ≤ 100 mmHg

<sup>3</sup> Patient must meet all of the following criteria for outpatient treatment:

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| • Solid tumor   | • No confirmed focus of infection                         | • Not currently on antibiotics             |
| • Able to tolerate oral medications                               | • Lives within 1 hour travel time of MDACC                | • 15 years old or older                    |
| • Able to tolerate fluids   | • Has a 24 hour caregiver                                 | • No quinolone allergy for oral regimens   |
| • Does not use PEG as primary route for nutrition and medications | • Has access to transportation and telephone at residence | • Patient is considered low risk           |
|   |   | • No multi-resistant organism colonization |

# Neutropenic Fever Inpatient Adult Treatment (Solid Tumors)

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## ANTIMICROBIAL THERAPY RECOMMENDATIONS

(Adjust doses for patients with renal/hepatic dysfunction)

Gram negative coverage antibiotics should be given first

Antibiotics should be given within 2 hours

### Consider the following when selecting antibiotics:

- Recent culture and sensitivity results
- History of multi-drug resistant organism (MDRO)<sup>1</sup> infection or colonization
- Suspected line infection<sup>2</sup>
- Antibiotic history and prophylaxis
- Source of infection if identified
- Antibiotic allergies
- Organ dysfunction
- Mucositis

• Routine use of therapeutic G-CSF is not recommended<sup>3</sup>

Documented beta-lactam allergy (i.e., hives or anaphylaxis)?

No

Yes

**Neutropenic fever<sup>4</sup>:**

- Cefepime 2 grams IV every 8 hours

**If mucositis greater than or equal to grade 2, suspected intra-abdominal infection, or other indication for anaerobic coverage:**

- Add metronidazole 500 mg IV every 8 hours

**If clinically suspected line infection<sup>2</sup>, bacteremia, skin/soft tissue infection, and/or MRSA colonization:**

- Add vancomycin 15 mg/kg (round to nearest 250 mg dose) IV every 12 hours

**If history of MDRO<sup>1</sup> infection:**

- Consider ID consult
- Consider meropenem 1 gram IV every 8 hours if clinically appropriate<sup>4</sup> in place of cefepime/metronidazole

**Neutropenic fever:**

- Aztreonam 2 grams IV every 6 hours (preferred) **or**
- Ciprofloxacin 400 mg IV every 8 hours if no quinolone prophylaxis or therapy in past 90 days

**Plus:**

- Vancomycin 15 mg/kg (round to nearest 250 mg dose) IV every 12 hours

**If mucositis greater than or equal to grade 2, suspected intra-abdominal infection, or other indication for anaerobic coverage:**

- Add metronidazole 500 mg IV every 8 hours

**If history of MDRO<sup>1</sup> infection:**

- Consider ID consult

See Page 3 for re-assessment

<sup>1</sup> MDROs include:

- Enterococcus resistant to vancomycin
- Staphylococcus aureus resistant to methicillin (oxacillin)
- *S. pneumoniae* resistant to penicillin and streptococci resistant to ceftriaxone
- Stenotrophomonas maltophilia
- Any extended spectrum beta-lactamase (ESBL)-producing gram negative bacilli
- Any carbapenem resistant gram negative bacilli
- All other gram negative bacilli that are resistant to usual recommended first-line agents

<sup>2</sup> Chills, rigors with infusion through catheter, cellulitis or discharge around the line entry site

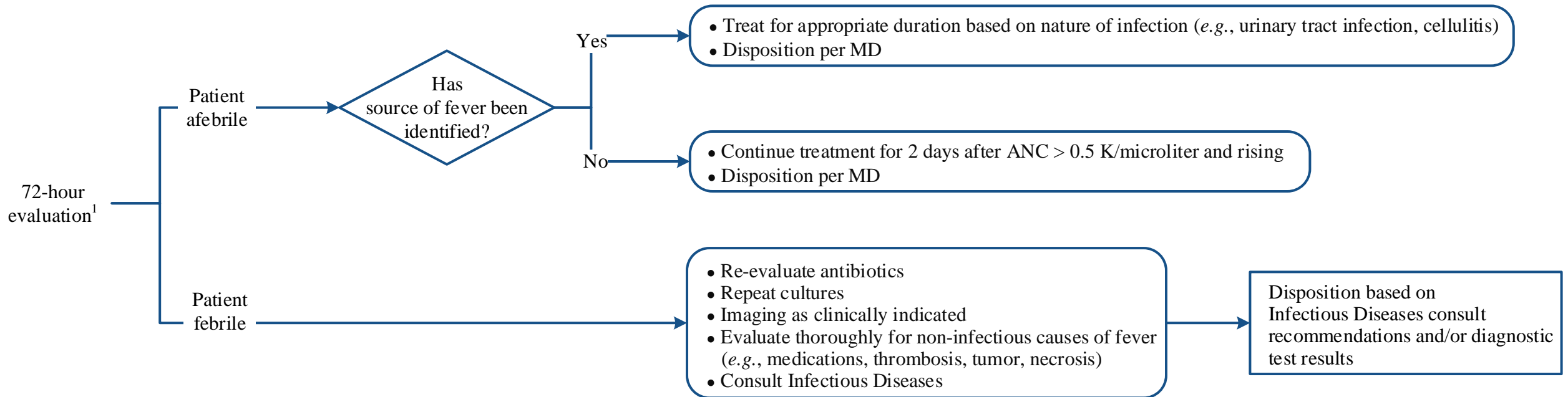
<sup>3</sup> Continue G-CSF if patient was receiving as daily prophylaxis. Consider therapeutic use if risk factor(s) present: sepsis, age > 65 years old, pneumonia or other documented infection, invasive fungal infection, ANC < 100 K/microliter, expected neutropenia duration > 10 days, uncontrolled primary disease, hospitalization at the time of fever or prior episode of NF.

<sup>4</sup> Consider meropenem if patient has any of the following:

- Non-IgE-mediated allergy to alternative agents
- Recent treatment (≥ 3 days duration) with cefepime or piperacillin/tazobactam within past 30 days
- Infection with ESBL organism
- Infection with organism only susceptible to carbapenem

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## RE-ASSESSMENT



<sup>1</sup> Consider narrowing therapy based on cultures and sensitivities (e.g., discontinue vancomycin if no gram positive organisms are identified and patient does not have cellulitis)

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## DEVELOPMENT CREDITS

This practice consensus algorithm is based on majority expert opinion of the Neutropenic Fever Work Group at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center for the patient population. These experts included:

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