MUSCULOSKELETAL INFECTION PATHWAY
INITIAL EVALUATION

**Inclusion Criteria:**
- >6 months old

**Exclusion Criteria:**
- Postoperative infection or foreign bodies
- Infections from penetrating trauma
- Chronic infections (>2 weeks)
- Medically complex children

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**Pathway Flow:**

1. **Initial Evaluation:**
   - **Concern for Musculoskeletal Infection (MSI):**
     - Does patient have signs of sepsis?
       - **Yes:** Make NPO and place IV if possible.
         - Obtain the following:
           - CBC, ESR, and CRP
           - Blood cultures
           - Radiographs (minimum of 2 views)
         - Were results abnormal (radiographs abnormal, WBC >12,000, ESR >20mm/hr, CRP >2mg/dL)?
           - **Yes:** Can the problem be localized to a joint?
             - **Yes:** Perform Joint Aspiration.
               - Send synovial fluid for cell count, gram stain, and culture; ONLY if 6 months to <5 years, send Kingella PCR.
             - **No:** Inclusion Criteria:
               - **Yes:** Admit to Pediatric Hospital Medicine.
               - **No:** Manage off Pathway in discussion with Orthopedics.
           - **No:** Can the problem be localized to an extremity?
             - **Yes:** Obtain ultrasound.
             - **No:** Inclusion Criteria.
               - **Yes:** Admit to Pediatric Hospital Medicine.
               - **No:** Manage off Pathway in discussion with Orthopedics.
2. **Evaluate Extremity:**
   - **Can the problem be localized to an extremity?**
     - **Yes:** Obtain MRI ± OR.
       - Timing and specifics should be discussed with Orthopedic Surgery, Radiology, and OR scheduling before exam is ordered and case scheduled.
     - **No:** Inclusion Criteria.
       - **Yes:** Admit to Pediatric Hospital Medicine.
       - **No:** Manage off Pathway in discussion with Orthopedics.
3. **Evaluate Joint:**
   - **Can the problem be localized to a joint?**
     - **Yes:** Consult Orthopedic Surgery.
       - Perform Joint Aspiration.
       - Send synovial fluid for cell count, gram stain, and culture; ONLY if 6 months to <5 years, send Kingella PCR.
     - **No:** Inclusion Criteria.
       - **Yes:** Admit to Pediatric Hospital Medicine.
       - **No:** Manage off Pathway in discussion with Orthopedics.

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**Inclusion Criteria Examples:**
- Septic arthritis
- Osteomyelitis
- Pyomyositis

**Exclusion Criteria Examples:**
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**Pathways are intended as a guide for practitioners and do not indicate an exclusive course of treatment nor serve as a standard of medical care. These pathways should be adapted by medical providers, when indicated, based on their professional judgement and taking into account individual patient and family circumstances.**

ChildrensOmaha.org/Pathways
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