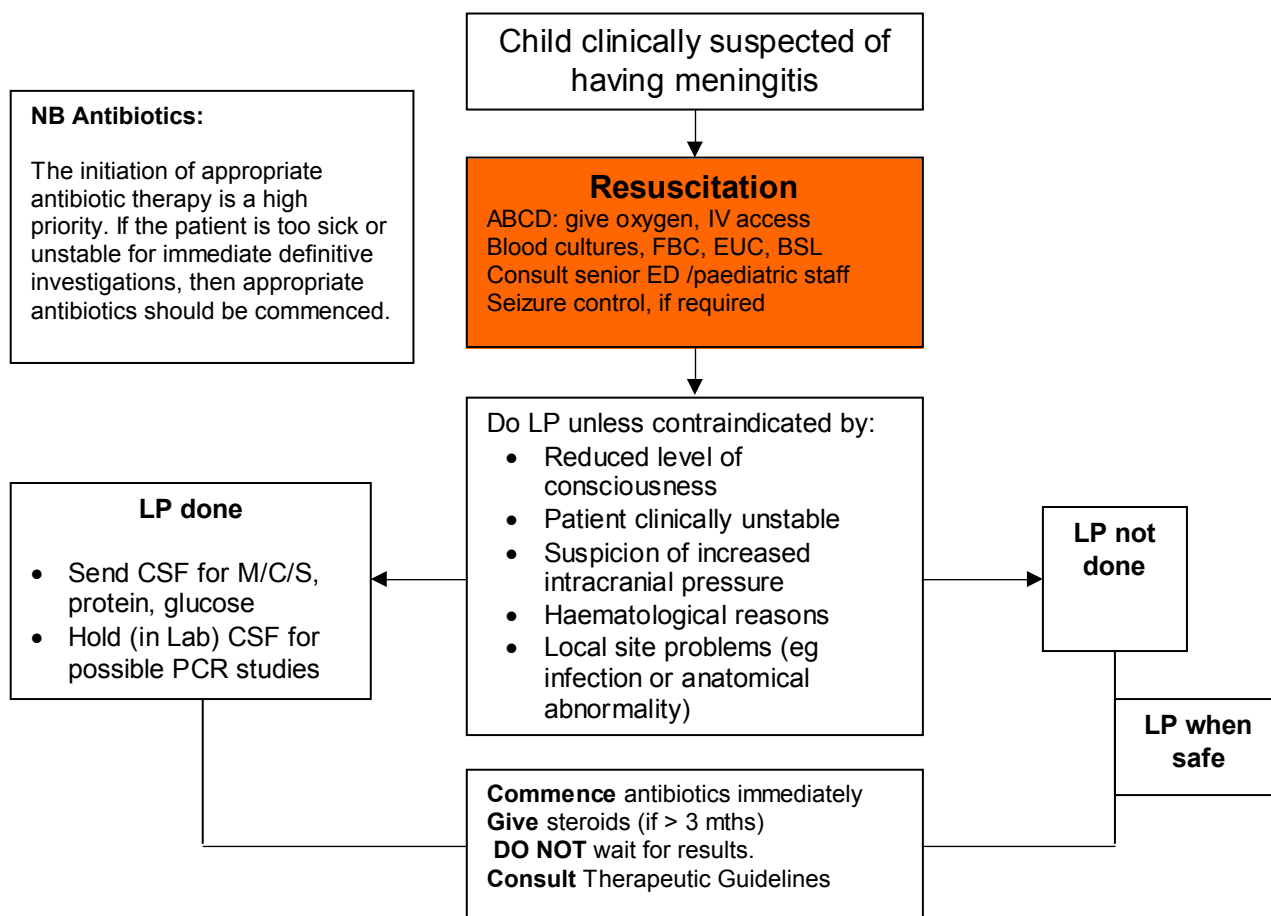


Hunter New England Health - Southern sector
PAEDIATRIC BACTERIAL MENINGITIS MANAGEMENT
IN EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS
 (John Hunter & Maitland Hospitals)

Assessment

Age	Common signs/symptoms	Other signs/symptoms
0-3 mths	Irritability, vomiting	± Fever, lethargy, ± tachypnoea or apnoea, poor feeding, altered sleep pattern, ± petechiae rash, bulging fontanelle
4-24 mths		Fever, ±neck stiffness, ↓ level of consciousness, altered sleep pattern, lethargy, shock purpura/petechiae rash, bulging fontanelle
>24 mths		Fever, neck stiffness, ataxia, Brudinski's sign, Kernig's sign, ↓ level of consciousness, shock, headache, purpura/petechiae rash, photophobia

Management



Age group	Antibiotic dose
0-3 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ampicillin 50mg/kg/dose (max 2g) 4 hourly and • Cefotaxime 50mg/kg (max 2g) 6 hourly <p><i>*NB: Ceftriaxone is contraindicated in neonates</i></p>
3 months +	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cefotaxime 50mg/kg (max 2g) 6 hourly or • Ceftriaxone 100mg/kg (max 4g) daily
Any age	Vancomycin 15mg/kg (max 500g) 6 hourly – discuss with consultant prior to use

Steroids (if > 3months)

Dexamethasone 0.15 mg/kg 6 hourly for 4 days (max 10 mg/day)
 Administer as a single push **before** antibiotics are given

Admit