CHILD CLINICALLY SUSPECTED OF HAVING MENINGITIS* (Section 1)  
*Note: Consult a senior staff member if in doubt

- ASSESS AND ATTEND TO AIRWAY, BREATHING, CIRCULATION AND LEVEL OF CONSCIOUSNESS +/- SEIZURES, FLUIDS & GLUCOSE * (Section 3)
- NOTE: Take blood for investigations (Section 4 & Table 1) at the time of establishing IV access if practical. "Routine" tests include: Blood culture, FBE/diff, U&E/creatinine, blood glucose

**PATIENT STABLE**

**INDICATION TO DELAY LP?** (Section 5)

**CONSULT SENIOR STAFF**

#Expedite lab analysis of the CSF
- M/C/S: urgent microscopy, culture and sensitivity
- Protein
- Glucose – best interpreted with concurrent serum glucose

- **Turbid CSF and / or**
- **High clinical suspicion for ABM**

**LUMBAR PUNCTURE** (Sections 4 and 5)

If no other indications to delay LP, proceed to LP

- **NO**
  - **Await CSF analysis**

- **YES**
  - **Turbid CSF**
  - **High clinical suspicion for ABM**

**LUMBAR PUNCTURE**

- **STEREOS if appropriate**  
  (Key Points and Section 7)
- **Start empiric antibiotics by age group** (Section 6)

**NORMAL OR EQUIVOCAL CSF**

- Low clinical suspicion for bacterial meningitis
  - Discuss further management with senior staff

**ABNORMAL CSF**

- High clinical suspicion for bacterial meningitis
  - Steroids if appropriate (Key Points & Section 7)
  - Commence empiric antibiotics
  - Discuss further management with senior staff

- Consistent with bacterial meningitis

**ADMIT**

Use in conjunction with Infants and Children: Acute Management of Bacterial Meningitis: Clinical Practice Guideline, fourth edition

**Clinical presentations**  
- History & examination
- Clinical presentation by age
- Presentation with prior antibiotics
- Complications

**Minimise delay in diagnosis** (Section 2)

**Initial management** (Section 3)
- ABCDE (3.1)
- Seizures (3.2)

**Diagnostic tests** (Sections 4 & 5)

**Specific therapies** (Sections 6 & 7)

**Nursing issues** (Section 8)

**Psychosocial needs of the family** (Section 9)

**Transfer of patients** (Section 10)

**Related issues** (Section 11)
- Infection control
- PHU Notification
- Clearance antibiotics (chemoprophylaxis)