

Evidence-Based Development of Clinical Care Pathways for Pediatric Surgery Patients

Assess Need for Change

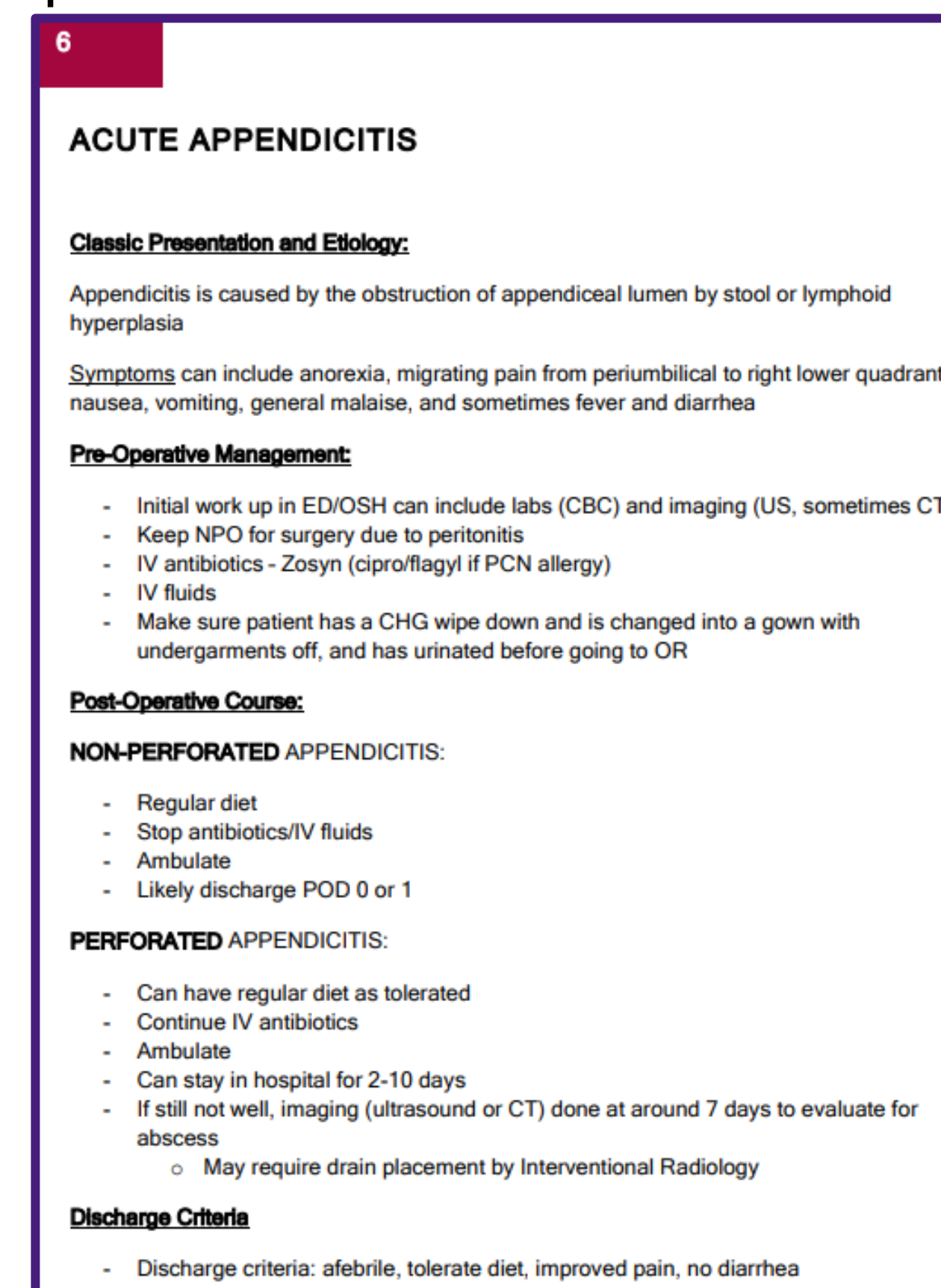
- Pediatric surgery patients are cared for by multiple teams including surgeons, **nurses**, and other subspecialists
- There is a **lack of clarity** in management of common surgical conditions for **nurses** who strive to provide excellent patient care
- It would be useful to have **guidelines** that **streamline communication**, minimize avoidable complications, and **standardize patient care**



Translate into Practice

The **Clinical Care Pathways** packet was created by the pediatric surgery team at Children's Hospital in New Orleans and distributed to nursing stations:

- Descriptions of **surgery team members**
- Pathways for the **most common pediatric surgery conditions** (9)
- **Visual aids** for common medical equipment and complex procedures



Evaluate and Maintain

- A **short survey** was dispersed to surgical floor nurses
- Assessed strengths, weaknesses and overall satisfaction with these guidelines

100%

of respondents (n=5) *strongly agree* these guidelines clarify post-surgical care expectations

100%

of respondents (n=5) *strongly agree* they will utilize these guidelines in future practice

Future work

- Continue collecting survey data
- Expand pathways to multidisciplinary teams
- Evaluate associations with patient outcomes

References

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Gather Evidence

- **Discrepancies in management** lead to **suboptimal outcomes**^{4,5,8}
- **Fewer evidence-based guidelines** available for pediatric conditions^{1,7}
- The **American Pediatric Surgical Association** has **quicksheets** for select conditions, yet these are **not up-to-date, easily accessible, or visually appealing**⁶

Benefits of clinical care pathways^{2,3}

