

Cellulitis

(Updated 11-05-2018)

Signs and Symptoms:

1. Painful, erythematous, swollen, tender area.
2. Fever may or may not be present.
3. Typically, erythema spreads without treatment
4. Patients presenting with rapidly spreading and very painful infections (suggestive of necrotizing fasciitis a life threatening infection of the deeper tissues) should be considered for urgent evacuation.

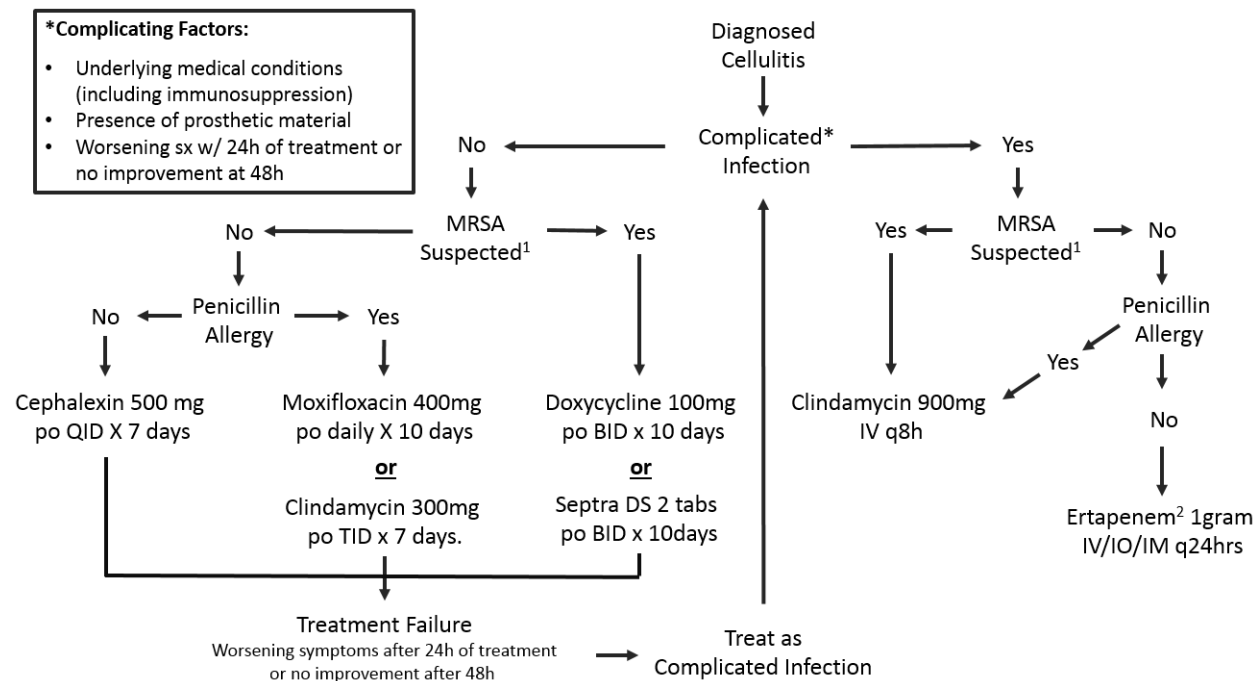
Contraindications:

Allergy to an indicated medication.

Management:

1. Clean and dress wound and surrounding area.
2. Use a pen to mark the demarcation border of the infection and re-evaluate in 24 hours.
3. Initiate antibiotic therapy as per Figure 1 – *Cellulitis Antibiotic Therapy Flowchart*.
4. Treat pain per *SOMT Pain Protocol* as required.
5. If possible, limit activity until infection resolves.

Figure 1 – Cellulitis Antibiotic Therapy Flowchart



Disposition:

1. Re-evaluate daily and watch for progression of erythema while on antibiotics.
2. Cellulitis in critical areas (head, neck, hand, joint involvement, perineal) requires *Priority* evacuation.
3. Complicated infections (use of IV antibiotics) require *Priority* evacuation.

Notes:

1. Sometimes, people with MRSA skin infections first think they have a spider bite. However, unless a spider is actually seen, the irritation is likely not a spider bite. Most staph skin infections, including MRSA, appear as a bump or infected area on the skin that might be:

- Red
- Swollen
- Painful
- Warm to the touch
- Full of pus or other drainage
- Accompanied by fever

(From: <https://www.cdc.gov/mrsa/community/index.html>)

2. Ertapenem – Reconstitution, Administration and Storage

IV Administration

- **Preferred route**
- Reconstitute with 10ml of 0.9% NaCl or bacteriostatic water.
- Infuse over 30 minutes
- May be administered IV up to 14 days

IM Administration

- Reconstitute with 3.2ml of 1% lidocaine HCL
- Select a large muscle for injection.
- May be administered IM up to 7 days.

Storage

- The reconstituted solution, immediately diluted in 0.9% Sodium Chloride Injection, may be:
 - stored at room temperature (25°C) and used within 6 hours; or
 - stored for 24 hours under refrigeration (5°C) and used within 4 hours after removal from refrigeration.
- Reconstituted solutions of ertapenem that become frozen should not be used.

(From: RxTx CPhA Ertapenem Monograph)