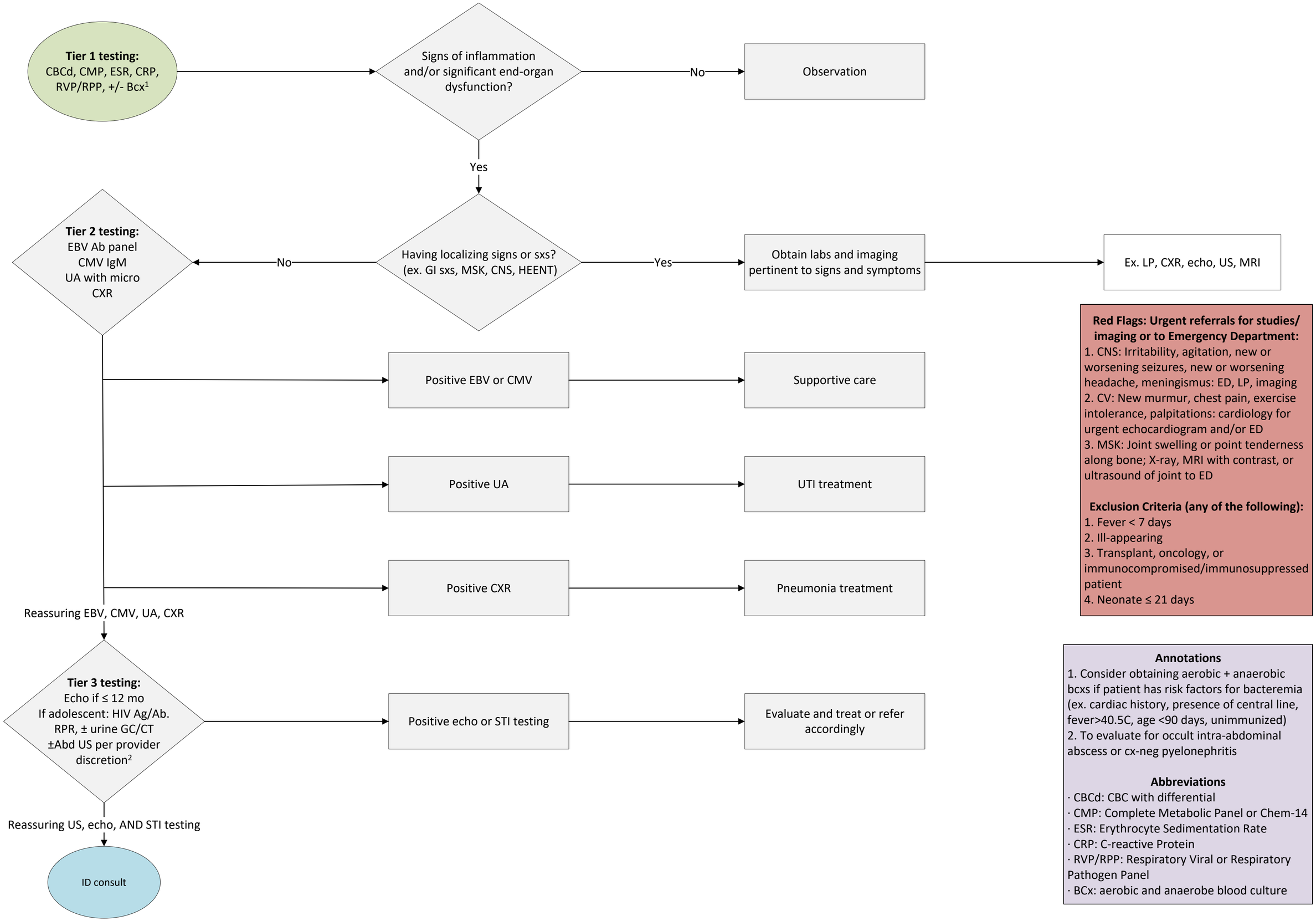
Fever Without a Source (>7 days)



Red Flags: Urgent referrals for studies/ imaging or to Emergency Department:

1. CNS: Irritability, agitation, new or worsening seizures, new or worsening headache, meningismus: ED, LP, imaging
2. CV: New murmur, chest pain, exercise intolerance, palpitations: cardiology for urgent echocardiogram and/or ED
3. MSK: Joint swelling or point tenderness along bone; X-ray, MRI with contrast, or ultrasound of joint to ED

Exclusion Criteria (any of the following):

1. Fever < 7 days
2. Ill-appearing
3. Transplant, oncology, or immunocompromised/immunosuppressed patient
4. Neonate ≤ 21 days

Annotations

1. Consider obtaining aerobic + anaerobic bcxs if patient has risk factors for bacteremia (ex. cardiac history, presence of central line, fever>40.5C, age <90 days, unimmunized)
2. To evaluate for occult intra-abdominal abscess or cx-neg pyelonephritis

Abbreviations

· CBCd: CBC with differential
· CMP: Complete Metabolic Panel or Chem-14
· ESR: Erythrocyte Sedimentation Rate
· CRP: C-reactive Protein
· RVP/RPP: Respiratory Viral or Respiratory Pathogen Panel
· BCx: aerobic and anaerobe blood culture

Reviewed on 11/10/25