

Abdominal pain care pathway

Admission criteria to obs unit

Continued pain unrelieved by symptomatic treatment

Pt unable to maintain hydration status

Vital sign abnormalities

Concerning findings on exam (increased tenderness, focal abdominal finding) or diagnostic testing (air fluid level on x-ray)

Exclusion criteria

Peritoneal signs, need for surgery, hemodynamic instability

ED assessment

Pregnancy should be excluded in all woman of childbearing age

CBC, BMP

+/- LFTs, Lipase

+/- AXR, CT abd/pelvis or RUQ US

Obs unit workup/treatment

If chronic abdominal pain then check iron studies and anti-tissue transglutaminase

IVFs

Pain control, anti-emetics prn

Discharge/Transfer from Obs unit

Home

Hemodynamic stability, pain subsided or managed, surgery not indicated, liquid, or advanced diet as tolerated. Adequate evaluation completed and negative for condition requiring inpatient admission.

Inpatient

Unstable vital signs, signs of peritonitis, concern that abdominal pain is from a life-threatening condition (acute bowel obstruction, acute mesenteric ischemia, perforation, acute MI, ectopic pregnancy)