

TYPHOID AND ENTERIC FEVER;CLINICAL WORKFLOW, CASE DEFINITION, AND

Topic: TYPHOID AND ENTERIC FEVER | Subtopic: CLINICAL WORKFLOW, CASE DEFINITION, AND

TRIAGE A practical workflow begins with early recognition, severity stratification, and placement of care. A suspected case is a child in a typhoid-endemic setting with fever for at least 3–5 days without another clear focus, especially with gastrointestinal symptoms, hepatosplenomegaly, or a typical “typhoidal” appearance. A confirmed case requires laboratory isolation of *Salmonella* (most often from blood culture). At presentation, stratify severity. Mild illness is characterized by stable vital signs, good perfusion, preserved sensorium, and ability to maintain oral intake without significant dehydration. Severe illness is suggested by toxemia, persistent vomiting, moderate to severe dehydration, altered mental status, bleeding manifestations, marked abdominal distension, or concern for ileus, peritonitis, or shock. Outpatient management is appropriate only when the child can drink, tolerate oral antibiotics, and has no danger signs, with reliable follow-up in 24–48 hours and explicit return precautions for worsening vomiting, abdominal pain, bleeding, or lethargy. Hospital admission is advised for infants, children unable to maintain oral intake, or any child with toxic appearance, neurological features, gastrointestinal bleeding, suspected perforation, or poor access to urgent care. In admitted patients, initiate supportive care immediately (fluids, antipyretics, nutrition, and close abdominal and neurologic monitoring) alongside empiric antibiotics after cultures are drawn.

References:

1. National Treatment Guidelines for Antimicrobial Use in Infectious Diseases (India) — Enteric fever section (NCDC) — <https://ncdc.mohfw.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/NTG-Version-31st-July-final.pdf>
2. ICMR Treatment Guidelines for Antimicrobial Use in Common Syndromes in India (2019) — [https://www.icmr.gov.in/icmrobject/custom_data/pdf/resource-guidelines/Treatment_Guidelines_2019_Final.pdf](https://www.icmr.gov.in/icmrobject/custom_data/pdf/resource-guidelines/Treatment_Guidelines_2019_Final.pdf)
3. Typhoid Fever — StatPearls (NCBI Bookshelf) — <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK557513/>
4. The treatment of enteric fever (review, PMC) — <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC1847736/>