Guideline for Evaluation of Infants Born \( \leq 34 \text{ Weeks Gestation for Risk of Early-Onset Sepsis} \)

- **Maternal indications for preterm delivery**: pregnancy-induced hypertension; pre-eclampsia; other maternal medical condition (i.e., cancer, renal disease). Also include longstanding in utero fetal growth restriction, particularly in multiple gestations.
- **Respiratory support**: supplemental oxygen for > 1 hour after birth; CPAP support; mechanical ventilation.
- **Hemodynamic support**: volume administration or pressor support given for poor perfusion and/or low blood pressure for gestational age.
- **Non-reassuring fetal testing**: testing prompted by concerns such as decreased fetal movement. This does not refer to fetal testing for indications such as maternal PET, mono-mono twins, etc.
- **Rule out EOS**: obtain blood culture and CBC/diff and antibiotics as below. **Routine Care** = no blood culture; CBC only if needed to address non-infectious concern (i.e., anemia, or PET-induced neutropenia/thrombocytopenia, etc.).
- **Standard antibiotics to rule out EOS are ampicillin and gentamicin**: Consider the addition of cefotaxime pending blood culture results, if infant is hemodynamically unstable and any of the following are present:
  - PROM
  - Maternal treatment with any antibiotic for > 4 hrs PTD
  - Abnormal WBC indices (WBC < 5.0, ANC < 2000, and/or I/T > 0.3)) not attributable to maternal pre-eclampsia or in utero growth restriction (birth weight <10th percentile for gestational age)
  - Prolonged (>48 hrs) use of cephalosporins for culture-negative, presumed EOS is strongly discouraged

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**Diagram:***

1. **Maternal Intrapartum Fever \( \geq 100.4 \text{ and/or Obstetrical Diagnosis of Chorioamnionitis} \)**
   - Yes: **Rule out EOS**
   - No: **Reason for Premature Birth**

2. **Reason for Premature Birth**
   - Preterm Labor and/or PROM or nonreassuring fetal testing
     - **Rule out EOS**

3. **Induction of Labor**
   - Pitocin induction and/or prostaglandin gel
   - subsequent vaginal or Csxn delivery
   - Yes: **Infant requires respiratory and/or hemodynamic support**
   - No: **Routine Care**

4. **Csxn Delivery**
   - without labor
   - ROM at incision
   - No: **Infant requires hemodynamic support**
   - Yes: **Rule out EOS**

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**Revised June 3, 2013**