




BC Children's Hospital, an agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority, provides expert care for the province's most seriously ill or injured children, including newborns and adolescents. BC Children's is an academic health centre affiliated with the University of British Columbia, Simon Fraser University, and the Child & Family Research Institute. For more information, please visit [www.bcchildrens.ca](http://www.bcchildrens.ca).

The Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA) plans, manages and evaluates selected specialty and province-wide health care services across BC, working with the five geographic health authorities to deliver province-wide solutions that improve the health of British Columbians. For more information, please visit [www.phsa.ca](http://www.phsa.ca).

The Child & Family Research Institute (CFRI) conducts discovery, clinical and applied research to benefit the health of children and families. It is the largest institute of its kind in Western Canada. CFRI works in close partnership with the UBC, BC Children's Hospital, and BC Children's Hospital Foundation. For more information, visit [www.cfri.ca](http://www.cfri.ca).

**Media Contact:**  
Communications  
BC Children's Hospital  
604-875-2301 or [comm@cw.bc.ca](mailto:comm@cw.bc.ca)

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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For immediate release

### Study reveals that infants with fever are treated differently in emergency departments

**Vancouver, B.C.** – Differences in testing and treating infants with fever were highlighted in a study published in the August issue of *Pediatrics*.

This is the first multi-centre study that looked at how infants with fever are diagnosed and treated in emergency departments across Canada.

“Fever in infants under three months of age is common, but it could be a sign of serious bacterial infections, so infants need to be treated immediately,” says Dr. Ran Goldman, Medical Director of the Emergency Department at BC Children's Hospital, an agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority. Dr. Goldman is also Senior Associate Clinician Scientist, Child & Family Research Institute and Associate Professor, Department of Pediatrics, University of British Columbia.

“We found that infants with fever were receiving good care, but pediatric emergency departments in six centres were diagnosing and treating these infants differently.”

The study was led by Dr. Goldman while he was at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto and was done for Pediatric Emergency Research of Canada. The research team looked at 257 infants in six pediatric emergency departments across Canada. Blood and urine tests were ordered in the majority, but the rates of lumbar puncture, respiratory virus testing, and chest x-rays were different across centres. In addition, 55 per cent of infants received antibiotics, with significant differences in the numbers and types of antibiotics.

“We want to give babies the best care possible,” says Dr. Goldman. “At the same time, we don't want to expose them to unnecessary risk, so if a test isn't needed, we shouldn't administer it. Similarly, if we're not doing enough, we need to determine what else is needed.”

Dr. Goldman says what is needed next is further research into why there are differences in treatment, consensus across pediatric centres, and the development of national guidelines.

“Pediatric emergency communities across the country, including BC Children's, can be the leaders in the field to develop national clinical practice guidelines that will inform health care professionals when creating a plan for the best and safest care for these kids.”