

Australian and New Zealand guideline for assessment of possible vaccine-induced pericarditis / myocarditis in children and adolescents presenting to the ED



The Immunisation Advisory Centre



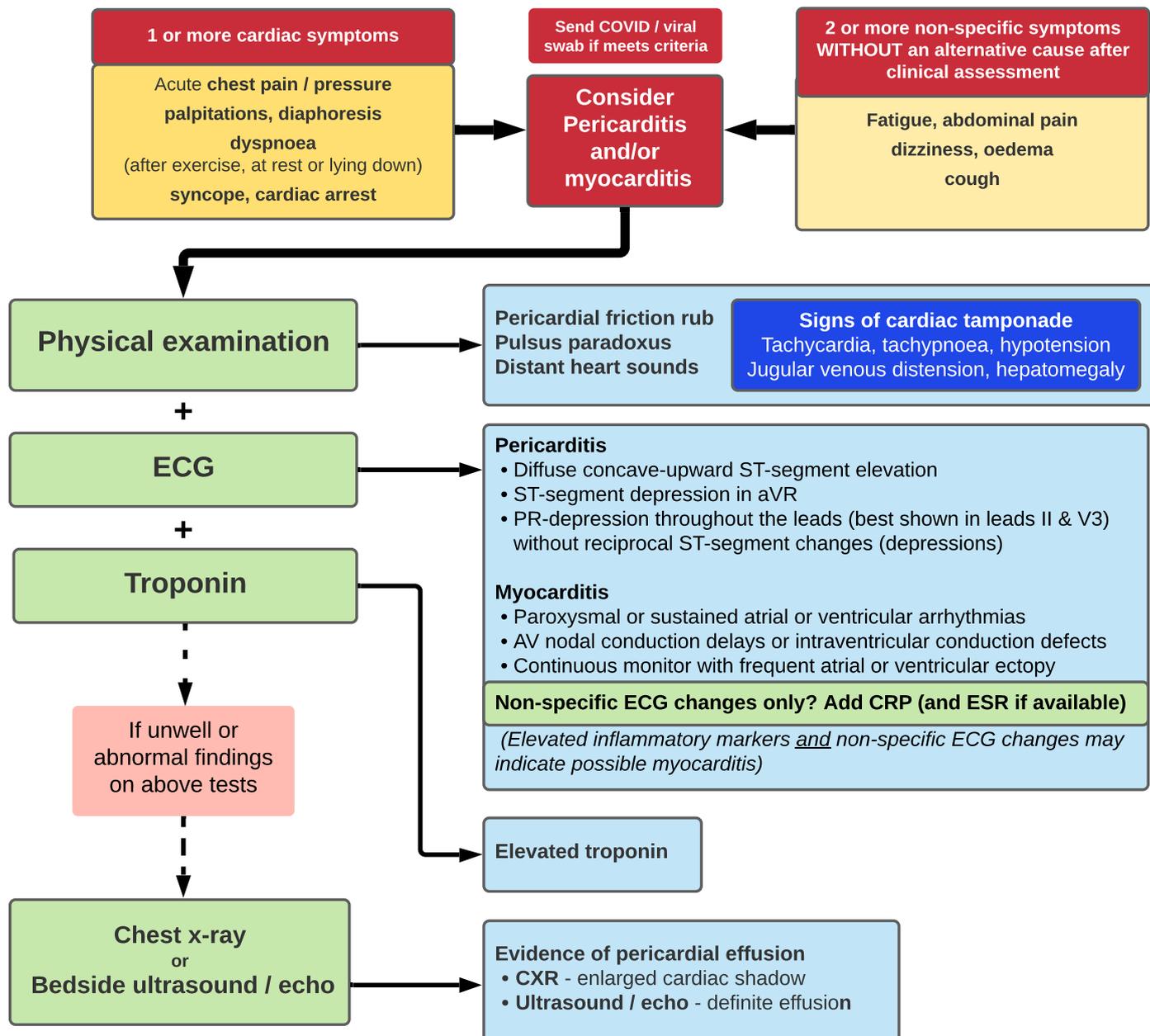
Paediatric Research in Emergency Departments International Collaborative



Australasian College for Emergency Medicine

- This guideline applies to children and adolescents who have received a dose of either Comirnaty (Pfizer) or Moderna (Spikevax) within 14 days prior to symptom onset. *Myo/pericarditis is a very rare complication of mRNA vaccines, and most patients completely recover.*
- In a clinically well patient, an ED visit may not be required as long as **same-day workup** can occur with the patient's GP.

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(A) Discharge home with GP review:

(Avoid high-intensity exercise / competitive sports until symptoms have resolved)

- **Normal findings** (normal examination, normal investigations)
- **Low-risk pericarditis** (pain and pericarditis ECG changes, but normal vital signs, no definite effusion).
If pericarditis, commence NSAIDs. Consider (case by case) cardiology review / outpatient echo

(B) Early follow-up with repeat assessment (ECG and troponin) in 24 hours

- **Possible myocarditis** (non-specific ECG changes, elevated CRP / ESR, normal troponin).

(C) Refer to paediatric cardiology from ED if:

- **High-risk pericarditis** (pain + pericarditis ECG changes AND fever OR abnormal vital signs OR definite effusion)
- **Myocarditis** (arrhythmia, conduction delays, abnormal vital signs or elevated troponin).

* If any abnormal findings, **report to local vaccine safety authority** (see page 2)

* If presentation relates to **first dose** of mRNA vaccine, ensure expert clinical advice is sought regarding future recommendations for COVID-19 vaccination (see page 2)

How to report an adverse event following immunisation (AEFI)

Where to report in each state / territory - follow the link provided below	
New Zealand	Centre for Adverse Reactions Monitoring (CARM)
Australia (national)	Therapeutics Good Administration
NSW	NSW Health website
Victoria	SAFEVAC website
Queensland	Queensland Health website
Western Australia	WA Department of Health website)
ACT	ACT Health website
South Australia	SA Health website
Northern Territory	NT Department of Health website
Tasmania	Tasmanian Department of Health

To seek further advice on safety of future COVID-19 immunisation following an mRNA vaccine, contact:

New Zealand: please call *0800 immune (466863)* or email 0800immune@auckland.ac.nz

Australia: Please contact your local paediatric infectious diseases specialist and/or immunisation service