

## Part 1: Medical Student Study Guide & Flashcards

### Study Guide: Approach to Pediatric Fever

As a medical student on your first pediatric clerkship rotation, mastering the approach to fever is crucial. Fever is one of the most common reasons for pediatric clinical encounters.

#### 1. Definition of Fever

- Core body temperature  $\geq 100.5^{\circ}\text{F}$  ( $38.0^{\circ}\text{C}$ ), typically measured rectally in infants for accuracy.
- Extreme fever is defined as a temperature  $> 106^{\circ}\text{F}$  ( $41.1^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) and requires immediate, aggressive intervention.

#### 2. Categorizing Fever Patterns

- **Fever Without Localizing Signs / Without a Source:** A fever whose etiology cannot be determined after a thorough history and physical examination, typically lasting less than 1 week.
- **Fever of Unknown Origin (FUO):** Documented fevers occurring at least twice per week lasting **more than 3 weeks** without obvious signs of acute toxicity, where a standard baseline medical evaluation remains negative.
- **Periodic Fever:** Multiple recurring episodes of fever that occur with regular, predictable, or inconsistent intervals. Features are stereotypical per episode, and the patient returns to baseline health between episodes.

#### 3. Key Periodic Fever Syndromes

- **PFAPA Syndrome:** Periodic Fever, Aphthous stomatitis, Pharyngitis, and cervical Adenopathy. Its exact cause is unknown, but episodes are highly predictable.
- **Familial Mediterranean Fever (FMF):** An autosomal recessive disorder on chromosome 16 characterized by recurrent bouts of fever and severe serositis (abdominal, pleural, or joint pain).

### Flashcards

#### Flashcard 1

- **Front:** What is the clinical threshold definition for fever in a pediatric patient, and what is the preferred method of measurement in infants?
- **Back:** A temperature  $\geq 100.5^{\circ}\text{F}$  ( $38.0^{\circ}\text{C}$ ), usually determined rectally.

#### Flashcard 2

- **Front:** What criteria distinguish a Fever of Unknown Origin (FUO) from a simple acute fever?
- **Back:** An FUO persists for more than 3 weeks with documented fevers occurring at least twice per week, without signs of acute toxicity, and has an unrevealing baseline laboratory evaluation.

#### Flashcard 3

- **Front:** What does the acronym PFAPA stand for in periodic pediatric fever syndromes?
- **Back:** Periodic Fever, Aphthous stomatitis, Pharyngitis, and cervical Adenopathy.

#### Flashcard 4

- **Front:** Which genetic periodic fever syndrome is associated with an autosomal recessive defect on chromosome 16 and presents with recurrent fever accompanied by abdominal, pleural, or joint pain?
- **Back:** Familial Mediterranean Fever (FMF).

#### Flashcard 5

- **Front:** Above what temperature is a pediatric fever considered "extreme," potentially risking cellular damage if caused by non-pyrogenic heat stroke?
- **Back:** Greater than 106°F (41.1°C).

## Part 2: Multiple-Choice Practice Quiz

The following interactive 10-question practice quiz is customized for your clerkship review. Each question features exactly five distractors (foils A-E). Per your guidelines, the verified URL source from **pediatriceducation.org** is embedded directly into the correct answer rationale.

PediatricEducation.org Fever Practice Quiz

May 26 at 12:05 PM

Try again without interactive quiz

Best of luck on your first pediatric rotation! Reviewing these foundational concepts regarding fever tracking, systemic warning signs, and autoinflammatory syndromes will serve you well on the wards and during your shelf exam.