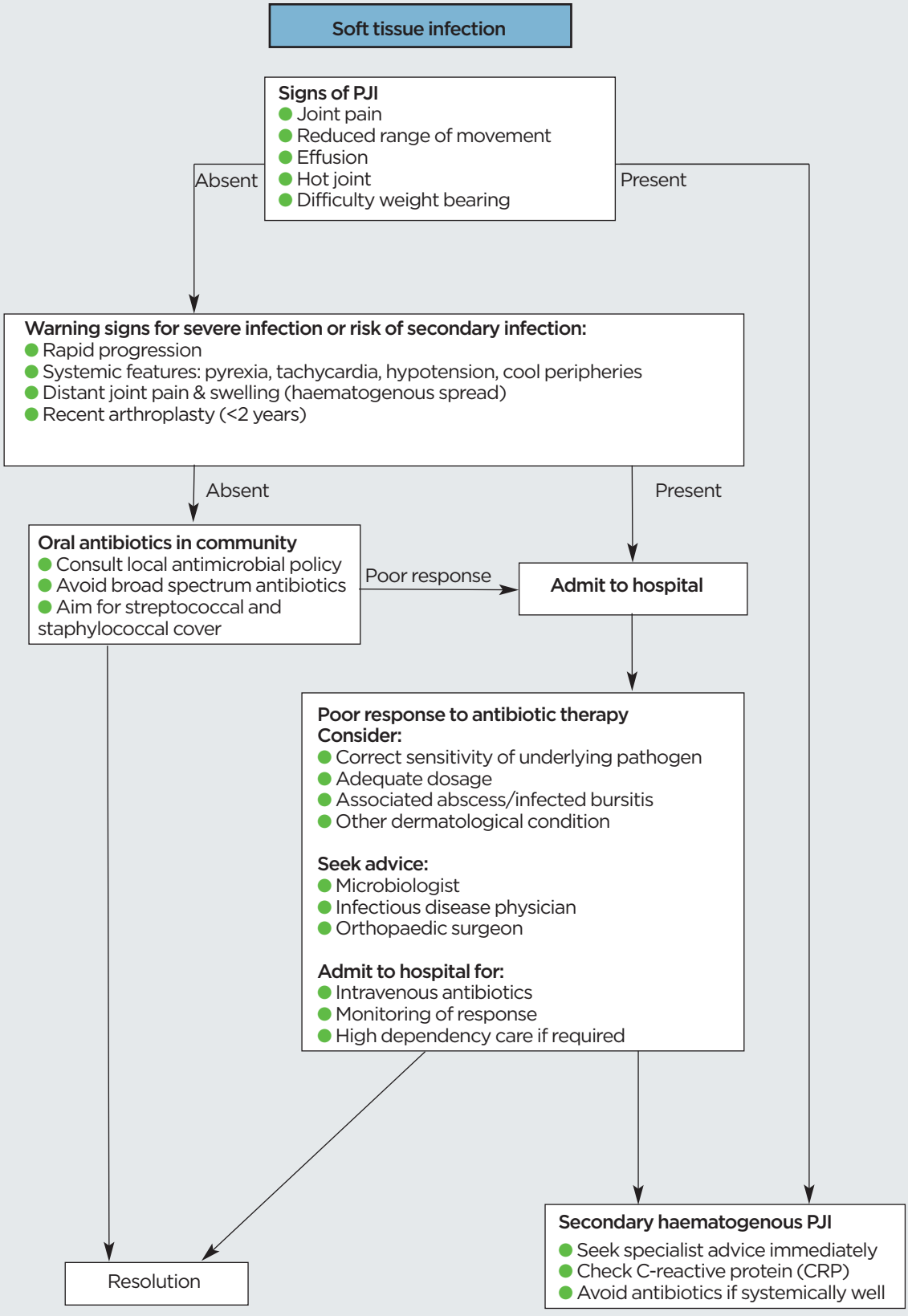
Figure 2


Soft tissue infection
Signs of PJI
Joint pain
Reduced range of movement
Effusion
Hot joint
Difficulty weight bearing
Absent
Present
Warning signs for severe infection or risk of secondary infection:
Rapid progression
Systemic features: pyrexia, tachycardia, hypotension, cool peripheries
Distant joint pain & swelling (haematogenous spread)
Recent arthroplasty (<2 years)
Absent
Present
Oral antibiotics in community
Consult local antimicrobial policy
Avoid broad spectrum antibiotics
Aim for streptococcal and staphylococcal cover
Poor response
Admit to hospital
Poor response to antibiotic therapy
Consider:
Correct sensitivity of underlying pathogen
Adequate dosage
Associated abscess/infected bursitis
Other dermatological condition
Seek advice:
Microbiologist
Infectious disease physician
Orthopaedic surgeon
Admit to hospital for:
Intravenous antibiotics
Monitoring of response
High dependency care if required
Resolution
Secondary haematogenous PJI
Seek specialist advice immediately
Check C-reactive protein (CRP)
Avoid antibiotics if systemically well