Algorithm: Functional Constipation Clinical Protocol

PCP evaluates symptoms of constipation

Red Flags?*

YES

NO

Can use Functional Constipation clinical protocol

Impacted?

YES

NO

Initial cleanout for chronic constipation (Appendix B: Chronic Constipation Treatment 3-Day Cleanout and Maintenance Dosing Tables)

Treatment effective after 2 weeks?

YES

NO

Evaluate:

- Adherence to medication?
- Adherence to behavior changes?
- Different medication needed?
- Different dose needed?
- Untreated fecal impaction?

Treatment adjustments effective after 2 weeks?

YES

NO

Refer to GI**

Relapse?

YES

NO

Maintenance Therapy:

- Repeat clean out x 2
- Continue maintenance at least 3-6 months
- Consider weaning over 6-12 months

Call GI at Provider-to-Provider Line, at 206-987-7777, as needed

Treatment adjustments effective after 2 weeks?

YES

NO

Evaluate:

- Adherence to medication?
- Adherence to behavior changes?
- Different medication needed?
- Different dose needed?
- Untreated fecal impaction?

Can call GI at Provider-to-Provider Line, 206-987-7777, to discuss adjustments

Evaluate:

- Adherence to medication?
- Adherence to behavior changes?
- Different medication needed?
- Different dose needed?
- Untreated fecal impaction?

Can call GI at Provider-to-Provider Line, 206-987-7777, to discuss adjustments

**If patient is diagnosed with functional constipation, clinical protocol will be initiated. GI to ensure initial success of treatment plan then GI will transition patient back to PCP’s care for continuation of treatment plan.

*Red Flags
- Meconium passage after 48hrs of life
- Constipation starting <1month of age
- Severe abdominal distention
- Fever, vomiting, diarrhea
- Blood in stools
- “Ribbon” stools
- Urinary incontinence
- Syndrome associated with Hirschsprung disease
- Neurologic deficit
- Failure to thrive
- History or suspicions of abuse

(See page 5 for physical examination red flags)