

# Nurse Driven Fever Protocols in Ambulatory Clinics

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## BACKGROUND

According to International Journal of Nursing Studies (2018), Nurse driven protocols are viewed as a tool to provide safe, equitable and effective care.

According to the Journal of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners (2015), “many parents of young, febrile children lack evidence based tools to manage fever (knowledge skills, confidence, support), fear negative outcomes and prioritize the reduction of fever over management of its source”.

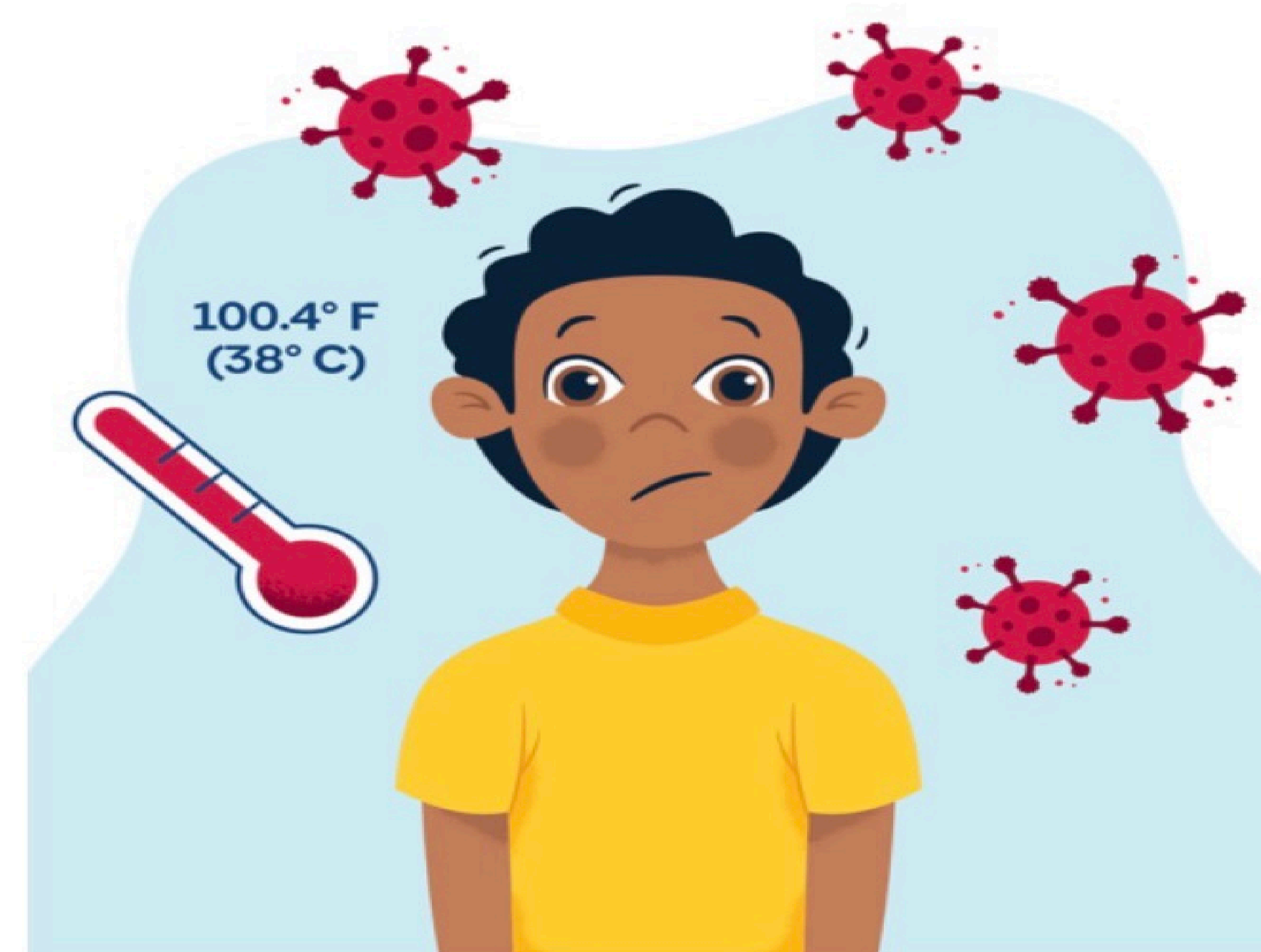
Changing the unit culture has been proposed by Kurt Lewin and has been used in a variety of healthcare settings. Lewin’s underlying idea behind changing a process involves three steps; unfreezing, changing & refreezing. Ambulatory Care is currently in the unfreezing stage.

## PURPOSE

Fever reducing protocols in ambulatory care will assist in improved patient care, opportunity for temperature management education and possibly improve patient satisfaction scores. Additionally, striving for nurse initiated protocols will enhance nursing autonomy and decision making opportunities leading to improved job satisfaction. Autonomy is one of the most common variables correlated with job satisfaction among nurses.

## METHODS

Using an improved antipyretic protocol, nurses can initiate fever reduction at the beginning of the patient visit. Weight based/adult dosing protocol for acetaminophen and ibuprofen will be used. Medicating patients for their fever at the beginning of the visit will allow timely fever reduction and support proper dosing education for temperature management upon discharge home.



## RESULTS

Patient satisfaction and fever management education will be evaluated prior to medication dosing and upon discharge from clinic. Nursing job satisfaction and improved autonomy will be evaluated with an anonymous questionnaire for participants after protocol is in place for 6 months.

## EXPECTED CONCLUSIONS

The Ambulatory Care Unit Based Council would like to encourage nursing autonomy and in doing so improve patient care. We feel by initiating nurse driven protocols at the beginning of a patients visit there will be opportunity for patient education and to lower fevers in a timely manner. This should lead to improved patient satisfaction in their overall clinic experience.

## REFERENCES

References available upon request

