STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE
Cornell Sheep Flock

JOINT (Navel) ILL

Signs
• Lambs 1 to 4 weeks old, occasionally older (polyarthritis)
• Lameness in one or more limbs
• May walk with stiff gait or arched back
• May carry a leg
• Joints may be swollen and warm
• Fever may be present (>104°F)
• May appear unthrifty if anorexic or not competing for milk
• Often secondary to navel infection
• Vertebral body abscess may appear similar; same treatment
• Distinguish from a fracture (inappropriate movement or crunching, usually carries the leg) - see fracture SOP

Treatment
• Antibiotics as soon as signs noticed, unless imminent slaughter. Treat with only one antibiotic at a time, unless instructed by vet
• Penicillin:
  o 1 mL subcutaneously daily for 5-10 days especially if pus at the navel
  o 14 day withdrawal
• Oxytetracycline (Biomycin, 200 mg/mL):
  o 1 mL subcutaneously on abdomen or neck daily for 3 to 5 days
  o 1 mL per 20 pounds especially for older lambs with polyarthritis
  o 30 day withdrawal
• Flufenicol (Nuflor, 300 mg/ml):
  o 1 mL per 25 pounds subcutaneously daily for 5-7 days
  o 30 day withdrawal

• If not better by next weekly vet visit, have veterinarian evaluate the lamb

Prevention
• Provide clean bedding in lambing area and jugs
• Dip navels in iodine to limit navel ill