



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH

# THE ESSENTIAL MATERNAL & NEWBORN CLINICAL PROTOCOLS.

AUGUST 2022



# FOREWORD

Uganda's maternal mortality ratio (MMR) though on a reducing trend, it remains unacceptably high at 336 per 100,000 live births (UDHS 2016). The under 5 mortality rate has reduced from 90 (2011) to 64 per 1,000 live births (UDHS 2016). However, despite the reduction in child Mortality, the Neonatal mortality rate (NMR) has remained high and stagnant over two the past 2 decades at 27 per 1,000 total births (UDHS, 2016)


Previous efforts to address the situation, including the National Safe Motherhood and Family Planning Programmes, have not yet yielded the desired effect. Total fertility rate (TFR) remains high at 5.4 per woman while modern contraceptive prevalence (CP) among married women is still low 35 percent (UDHS 2016) below the desired 50%.

In light of this, the Ministry of Health (MOH) in conjunction with partners came up with simplified, but intensive, and evidence based clinical guidelines and protocols on the management of the most common obstetric/neonatal conditions that contribute to maternal and neonatal mortality. In these guidelines, emphasis is placed on a refocused Quality antenatal care; birth and emergency preparedness; identification, prevention and management of life threatening complications of pregnancy and childbirth; as well as the management of the normal and sick new-born.

These guidelines also provide a basis for assisting the health provider in the decision-making process. Providers are also reminded of the need to involve the client, her husband and members of the community in her management.

This book, which has been appropriately titled Essential Maternal & Neonatal Care Clinical Guidelines for Uganda, is expected to be a reinforcement of the Safe Motherhood Life Saving Skills (LSS) program, the Pregnancy, Childbirth and Postnatal Care (PCPNC), Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) Training Curriculum, the National Adolescent Health Policy, The Reproductive Health Service Guidelines for Family Planning and Maternal Health Services Delivery, the Midwives Handbook, the Guide to Practice and several others.

The prevention of maternal and neonatal mortality and Morbidity is joint responsibility of all health care providers, Policy makers and the communities they serve. As you read this book, identify gaps between your present level of performance, responsibility and the desired level of performance so that you can take the necessary steps to bridge the gap and improve the quality of maternal and new-born health care in the country.



Dr. Henry G. Mwebesa  
Director General, Ministry of Health

## LIST OF PROTOCOLS

# TABLE OF CONTENT

Protocol 1:	The MOH Goal Oriented Anc Protocol	2
Protocol 2:	Management of Iron Deficiency Anaemia in Pregnancy	3
Protocol 3:	Management of Malaria in Pregnancy	4
Protocol 4:	Management of hyperemesis Gravidarum	5
Protocol 5:	Management of pre-eclampsia	6
Protocol 6:	Management of Intrauterine fetal death	7
Protocol 7:	Antenatal management of breech presentation	8
Protocol 8:	Hyperglycaemia in pregnancy	9
Protocol 9:	Hyperglycaemia in labour and delivery	10
Protocol 10:	Management of preterm labour	11
Protocol 11:	Management of premature Labour	12
Protocol 12:	Pre-labour rupture of membranes	13
Protocol 13:	Management of first stage of labour on admission	14
Protocol 14:	Management of 2nd stage of labour	15
Protocol 15:	Routine management of third stage	16
Protocol 16:	Management of FOURTH STAGE OF LABOUR	17
Protocol 17:	Induction of labor	18
Protocol 18:	Breech presentation during labour	19
Protocol 19:	Management of Face Presentation	20
Protocol 20:	Brow presentation	21
Protocol 21:	Management of transverse lie	22
Protocol 22:	Management of Shoulder presentation	23
Protocol 23:	Management of prolonged latent phase	24
Protocol 24:	Prolonged active labour	25
Protocol 25:	Management of cord prolapse	26
Protocol 26:	Management of foetal distress (without cord prolapse)	27
Protocol 27:	Management of Gestational Trophoblastic Disease	28
Protocol 28:	Management of Ectopic Pregnancy	29
Protocol 29:	Protocol on Abruption Placenta	30
Protocol 30:	Protocol for Placenta Praevia	31
Protocol 31:	Management of Ruptured Uterus	32
Protocol 32:	Management of primary postpartum haemorrhage	33
Protocol 33:	Management of secondary postpartum haemorrhage	34
Protocol 34:	Breast Engorgement and Mastitis	35
Protocol 35:	Management of cracked/sore nipples	36
Protocol 36:	Management of puerperal sepsis	37
Protocol 37:	Management of urinary tract infection	38
Protocol 38:	Abnormal Vaginal Discharge	39
Protocol 39:	Genital Ulcer	40
Protocol 40:	Bartholin's Abscess	41
Protocol 41:	Genital Warts	42
Protocol 42:	Management of breast abscess	43
Protocol 43:	Management of HIV in pregnancy	44
Protocol 44:	Intrapartum care for covid 19 in Pregnancy	45
Protocol 45:	Antenatal care for covid 19 in Pregnancy	46
Protocol 46:	Neonatal Resuscitation	47
Protocol 47:	process of community diagnosis	48
Protocol 48:	WHO Framework for the quality of maternal and newborn care	49
Protocol 49:	The referral pathway	50





THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH

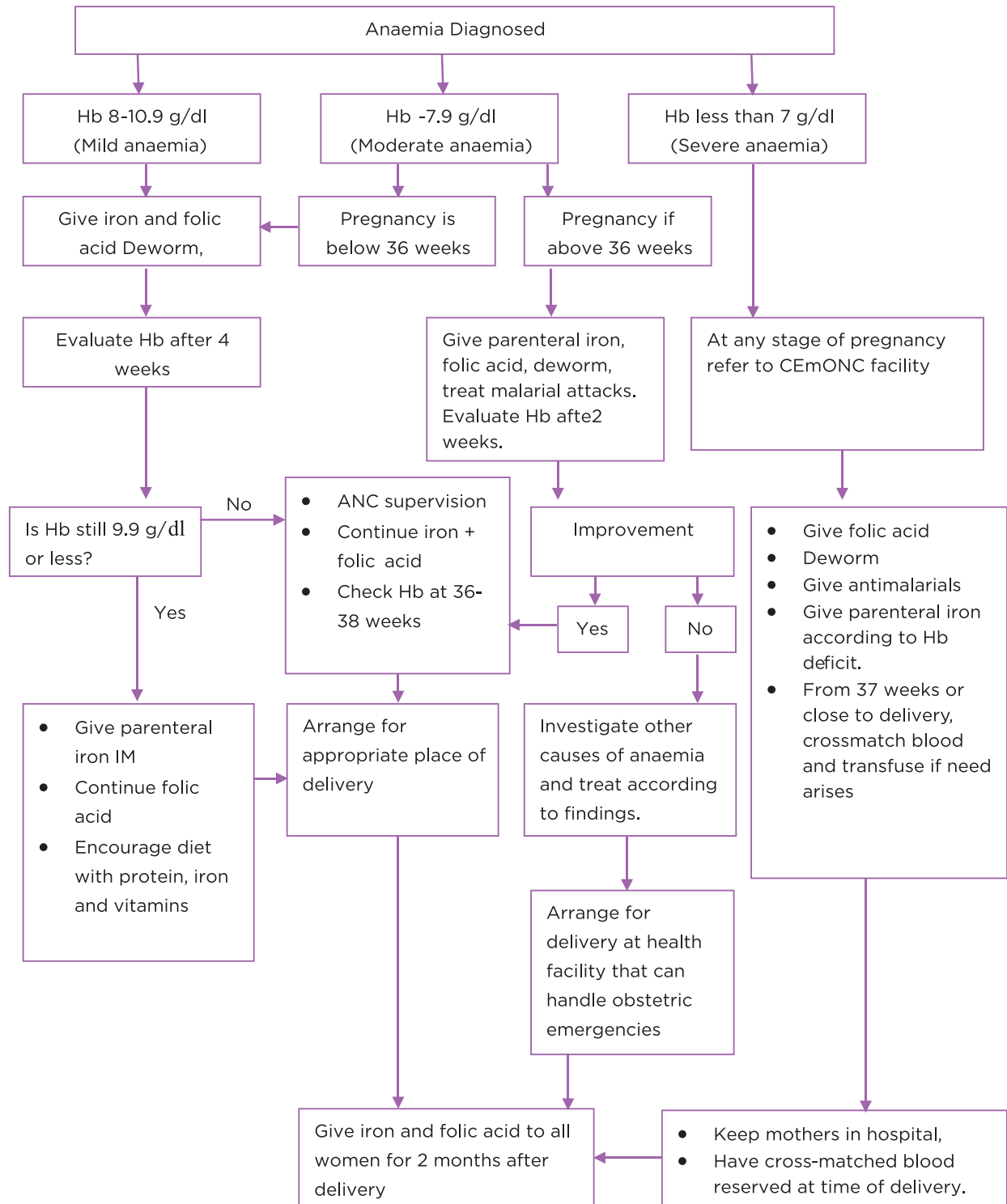
### Protocol 1: The MOH Goal Oriented Anc Protocol

**Important:** Goals are different depending on the timing of the visit. Minimum 8 Contacts are aimed for an uncomplicated pregnancy. If a woman books later than in first trimester, preceding goals should be combined and attended to. At all visits address any identified problems, check the BP and measure the Symphysio-Fundal Height (SFH) women must receive Hb, HIV testing and Syphilis testing (RPR) routinely.

TRIMESTER	GOAL	TIMING OF CONTACT	HISTORY TAKING	EXAMINATION	LABORATORY Investigations	PROMOTION	ACTION	
FIRST CONTACT	First Trimester 0 - 12 weeks	Contact 1: Anytime ≤ 12 weeks	-Presenting complaint -LNMP -Estimate period of gestation -Contraceptive? -Obstetric -Medical -Surgical -STI -Social: smoking alcohol/drugs -TB screening -Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) - Dietary	-General exam -Vital exam (e.g. BP, pulse) -SFH measurement -Abdominal/specific exam -Vulva exam (Speculum if indicated) -Nutritional assessment (height, weight, MUAC)	-Hb (CBC where available) -HIV test -Syphilis test (RPR) -Blood group/RhD -Urine albumen, Glucose -Gram staining for ASB, urine culture if indicated - Glucose tolerance test (GTT) (for suspicious cases/hospital) -RDT for Malaria (where indicated) -Hepatitis B test	-H/E on common pregnancy complaints -Address any problem -Involve husband in ANC -Draw up a birth and emergency preparedness plan -Counsel on PFPF methods -Danger Signs (abdominal pain, severe headache, blurred vision etc) -eMTCT -Nutrition education, Hygiene, Rest and exercise -Infant feeding -LLINS, IPTp use -Dangers of smoking, alcohol and substance abuse	-Tetanus/ Diphtheria vaccine (Td) -Ferrous SO <sub>4</sub> -Folic acid -Treat incidental ailments -Condom use for HIV prevention in discordant couples and those at high risk -Debriefing mother on findings and course of action -Give next appointment and explain what will be done emphasising need to come back any time if there is need	
	Second Trimester >13 - 28 weeks	Contact 2: 13 - 20 Weeks  Contact 3: 21 - 28 Weeks	-Ask for presenting complaints -Date of 1st foetal movements -vaginal bleeding -Social: smoking alcohol/drugs -TB screening -Intimate partner violence	-General exam -BP -SFH (symphysis Fundal Height) -Abdominal exam -rule out multiple -pregnancy -Nutritional assessment -Early Ultra Sound Scan best at 20 weeks but can be done up to 24 weeks	-Hb at 26 weeks -If BP ≥140/90 -Urine albumen, if there is glycosuria refer to hospital for GTT	-Address presenting complaints -Discuss Laboratory results and need to treat partner where necessary -Symptoms of PIH, vaginal bleeding -eMTCT/HCT -LLINS/IPTp use -Danger Signs -Nutrition & Hygiene, Rest and exercise -Male involvement -Birth and emergency preparedness plan	-Td -Ferrous SO <sub>4</sub> -Folic acid -IPT dose -Mebendazole -Treat incidental ailments -Use of condoms in high risk individuals/ discordant -Debriefing mother -Give next appointment and explain what will be done emphasising need to come back any time if there is need	
2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Contact								
TRIMESTER	GOAL	TIMING OF CONTACT	HISTORY TAKING	EXAMINATION	LABORATORY Investigations	PROMOTION	ACTION	
4 <sup>th</sup> , 5 <sup>th</sup> , 6 <sup>th</sup> , 7 <sup>th</sup> , 8 <sup>th</sup> contact	Third Trimester 29 - 40 weeks	Contact 4 30 weeks  Contact 5 34 weeks  Contact 6 36 weeks  Contact 7 38 weeks  Contact 8 40 weeks	-Ask for problems/ complications -Vaginal bleeding -Fetal movements -Intimate partner violence	-General exam -Rule out anaemia -Nutritional assessment -BP -Abdominal exam -Obstetric (SFH) -Check lie presentation	-If BP ≥140/90 -Urine albumen -Hb at 36 WOA -Midstream gram staining to rule out Asymptomatic Bacteruria at 34 weeks -Repeat HIV testing and Viral as per current guidelines (36 weeks)	-Address problems -Discuss signs of labour/ PROM -Discuss vaginal bleeding -Review delivery plan -eMTCT/HTS -LLIN/IPTp use -Postpartum FP -Sex and other postpartum Care -Infant Feeding -Danger signs -Nutrition & Hygiene, Rest and exercise -Male involvement -Cervical cancer screening	-Ferrous SO <sub>4</sub> -Folic acid -IPT dose -Treat incidental ailments -Treat presenting ailments based on lab findings -Use of condoms in high-risk individuals/ discordant -Debriefing mother -Review and modify birth and emergency preparedness plan	

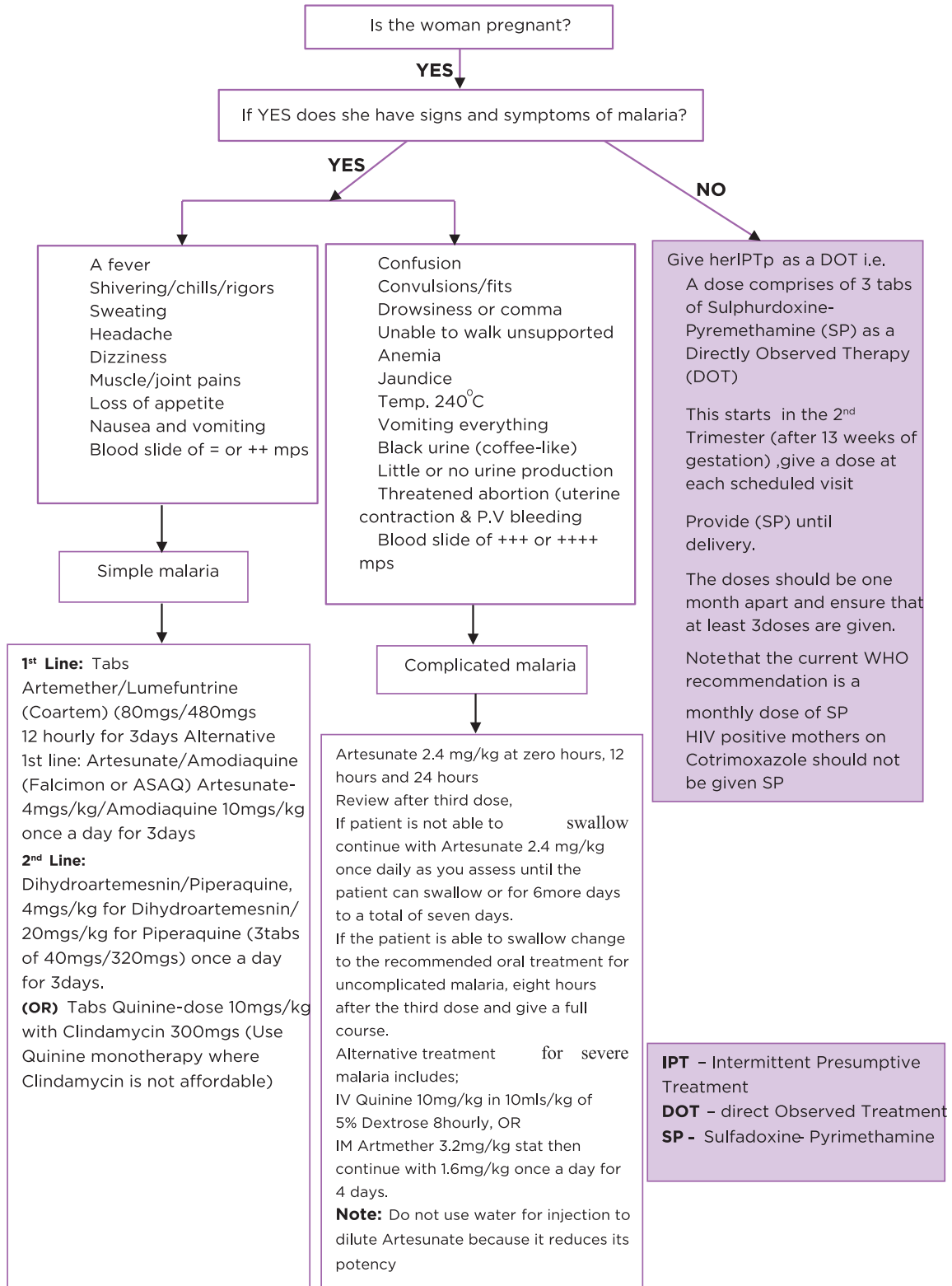
**Note: If not delivered by 41 weeks, immediately report to the nearest health facility**

## Protocol 2: Management of Iron Deficiency Anaemia in Pregnancy



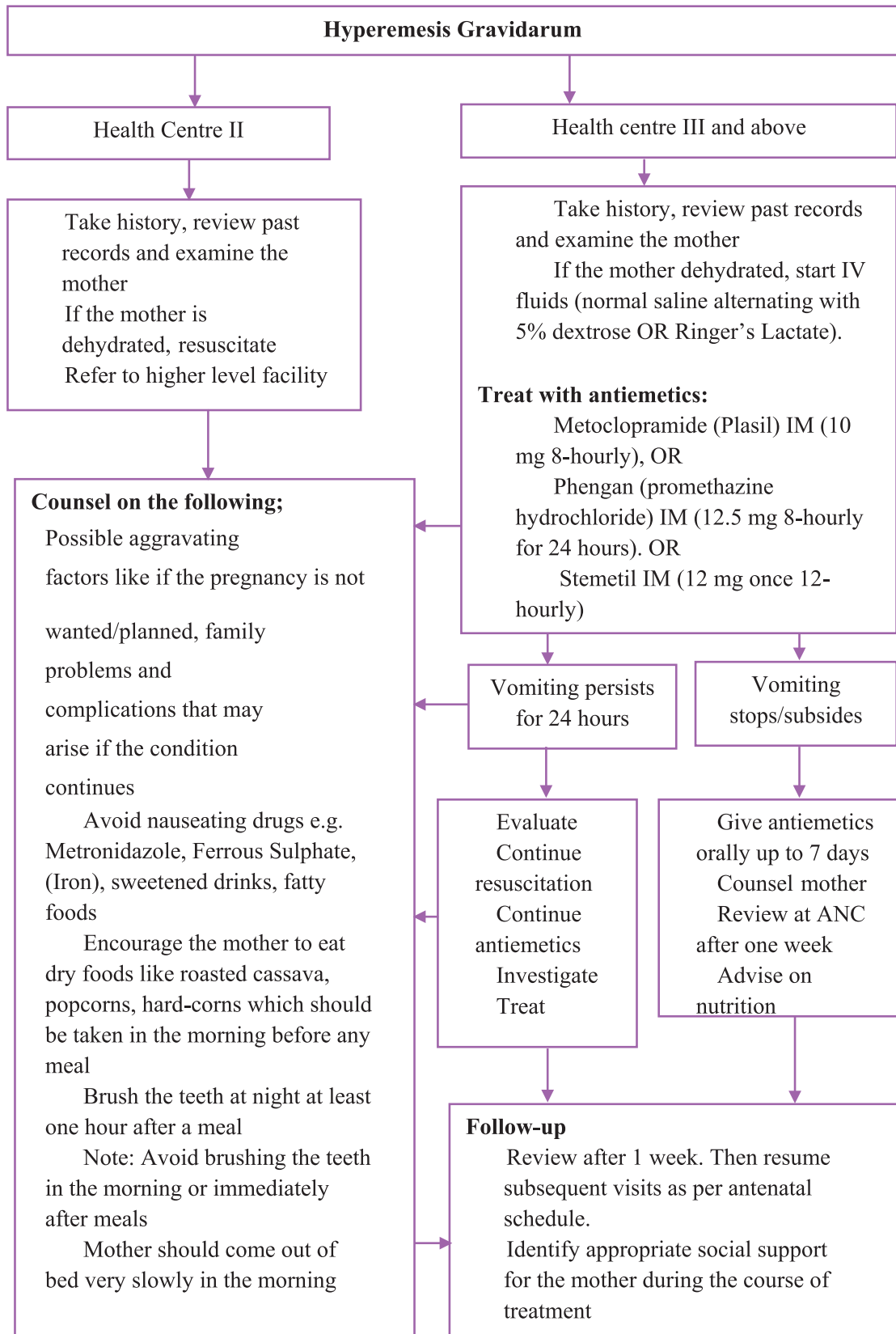


## Protocol 3: Management of Malaria in Pregnancy

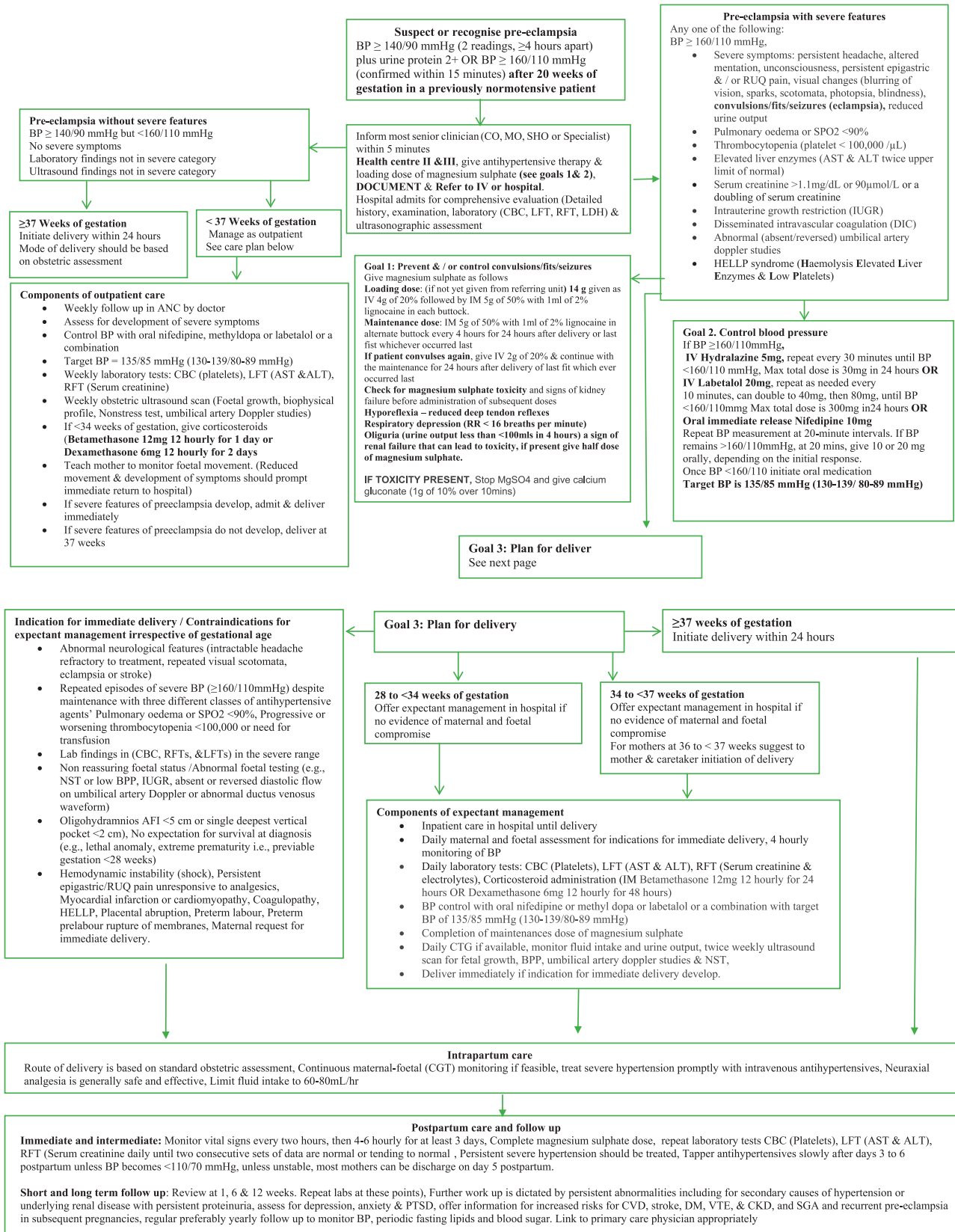




## Protocol 4: Management of hyperemesis Gravidarum



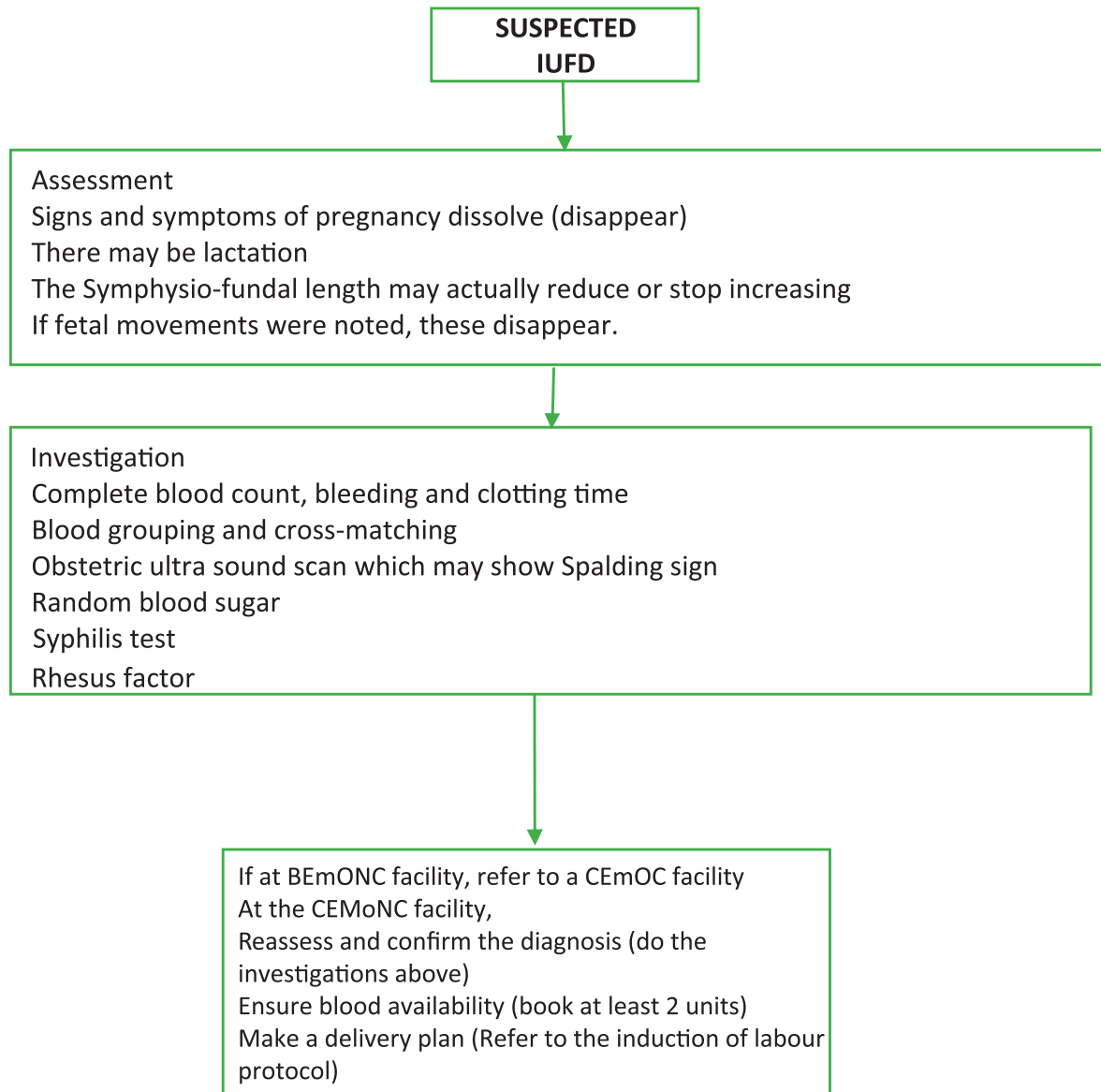
## Protocol 5: Management of pre-eclampsia





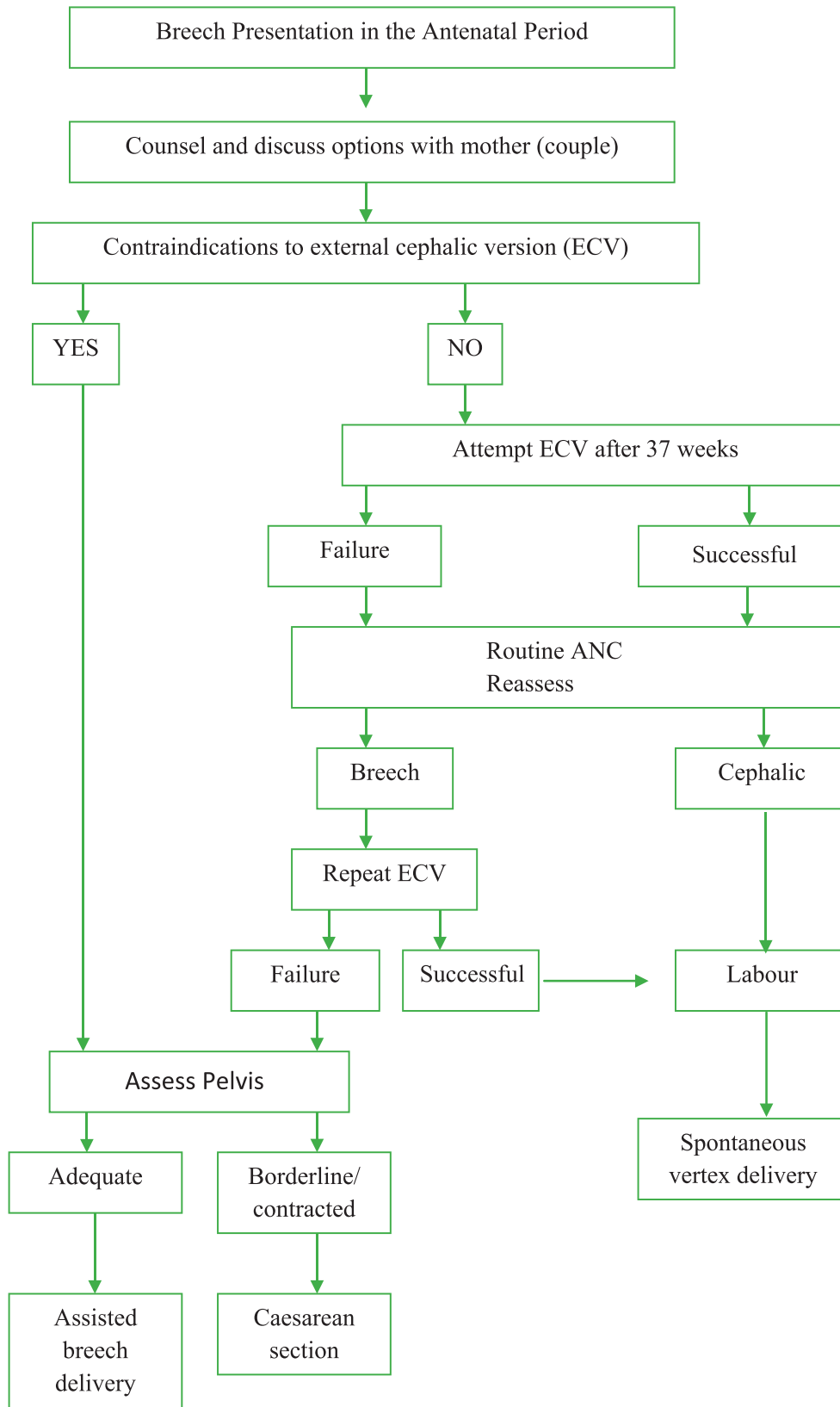


## Protocol 6: Management of Intrauterine fetal death



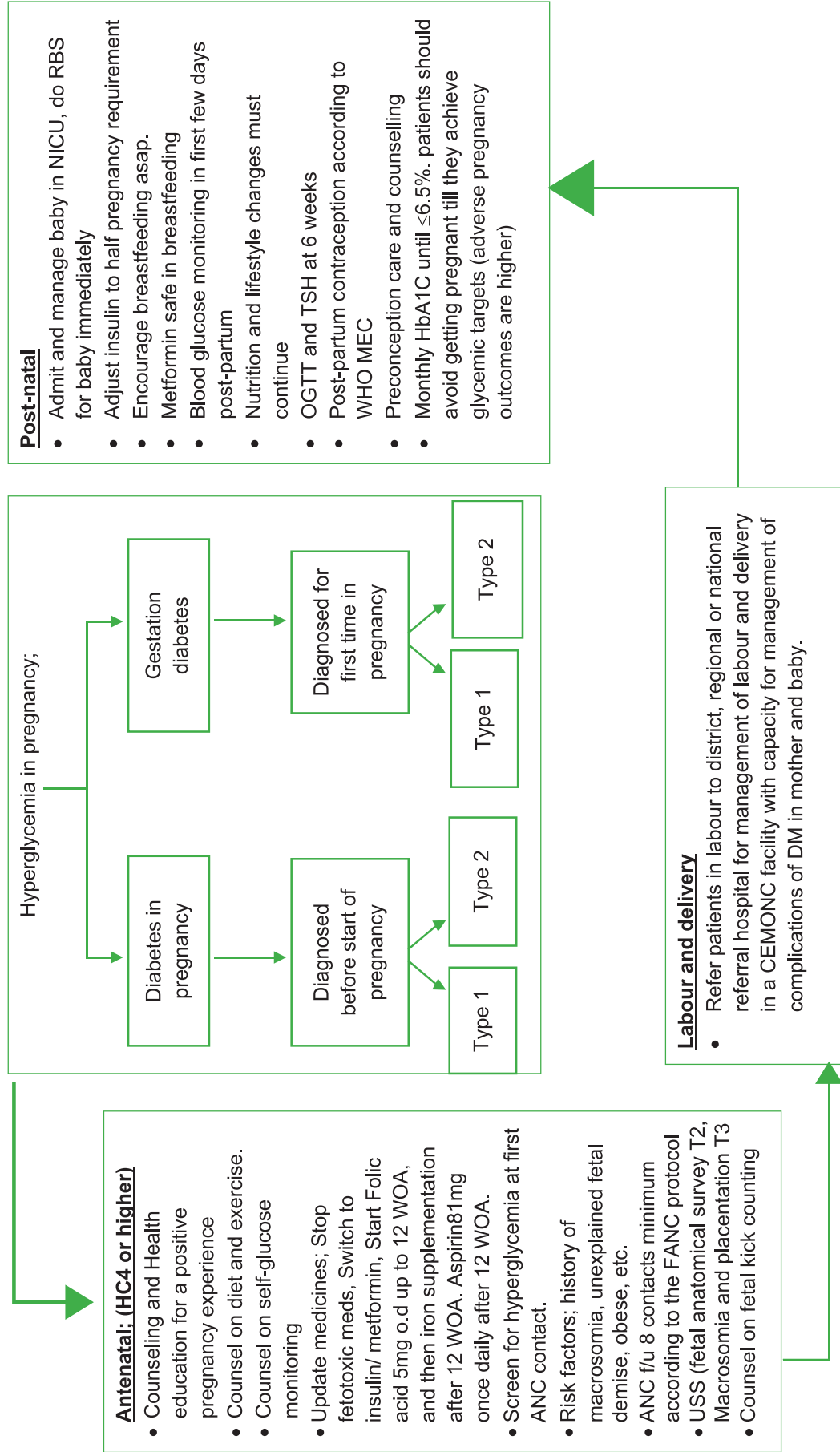


## Protocol 7: Antenatal management of breech presentation

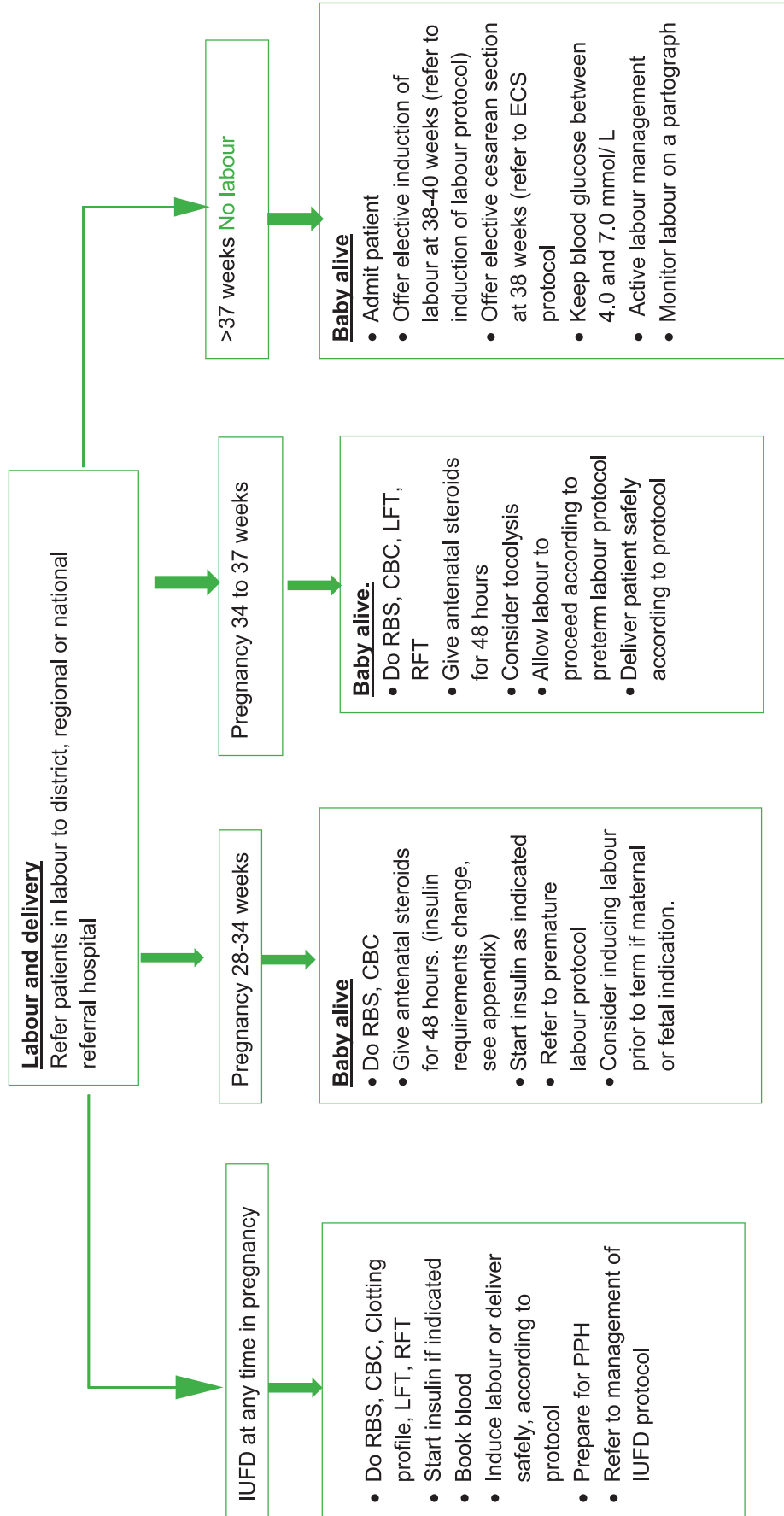




## Protocol 8: Hyperglycaemia in pregnancy

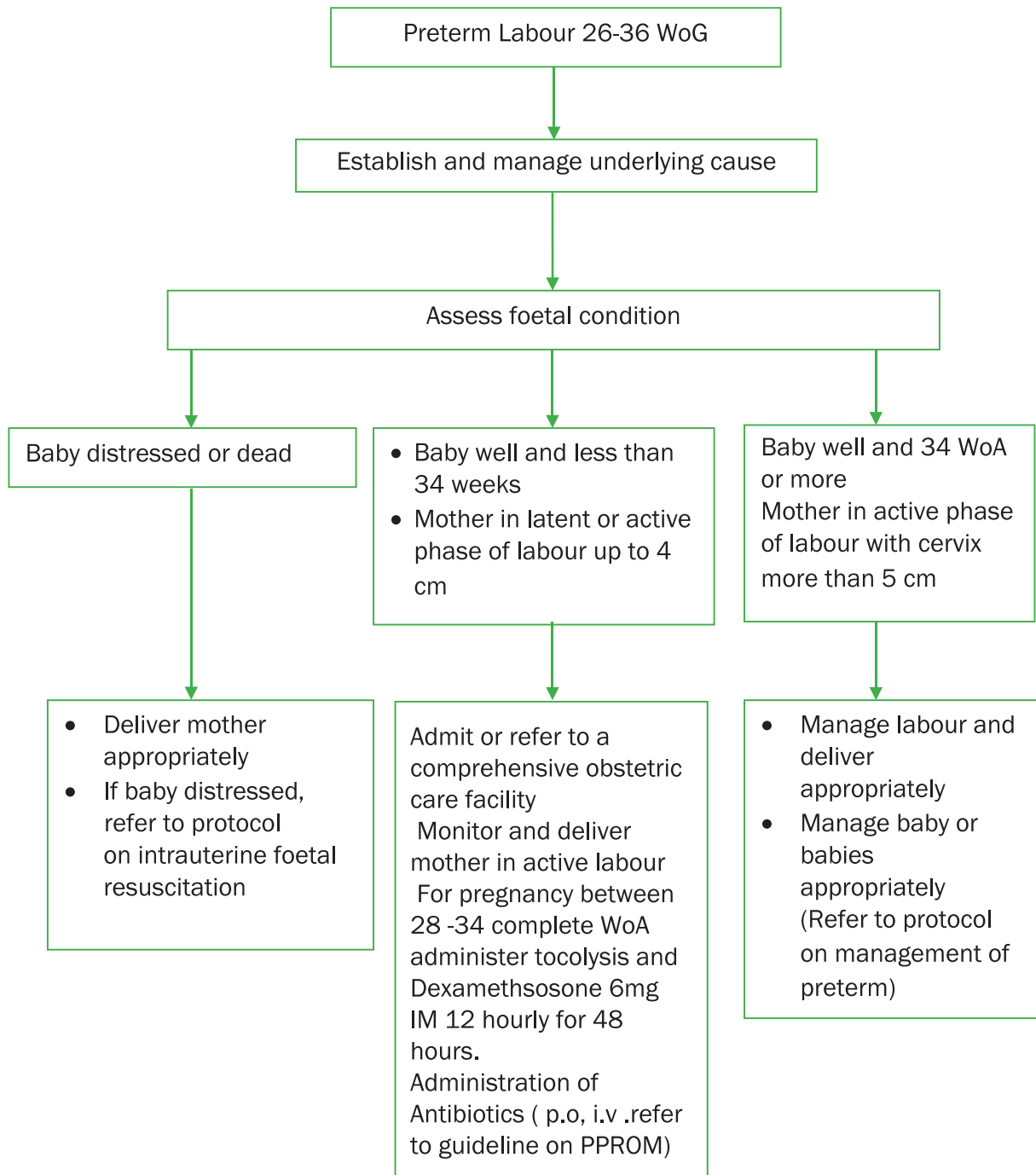


## Protocol 9: Hyperglycaemia in labour and delivery





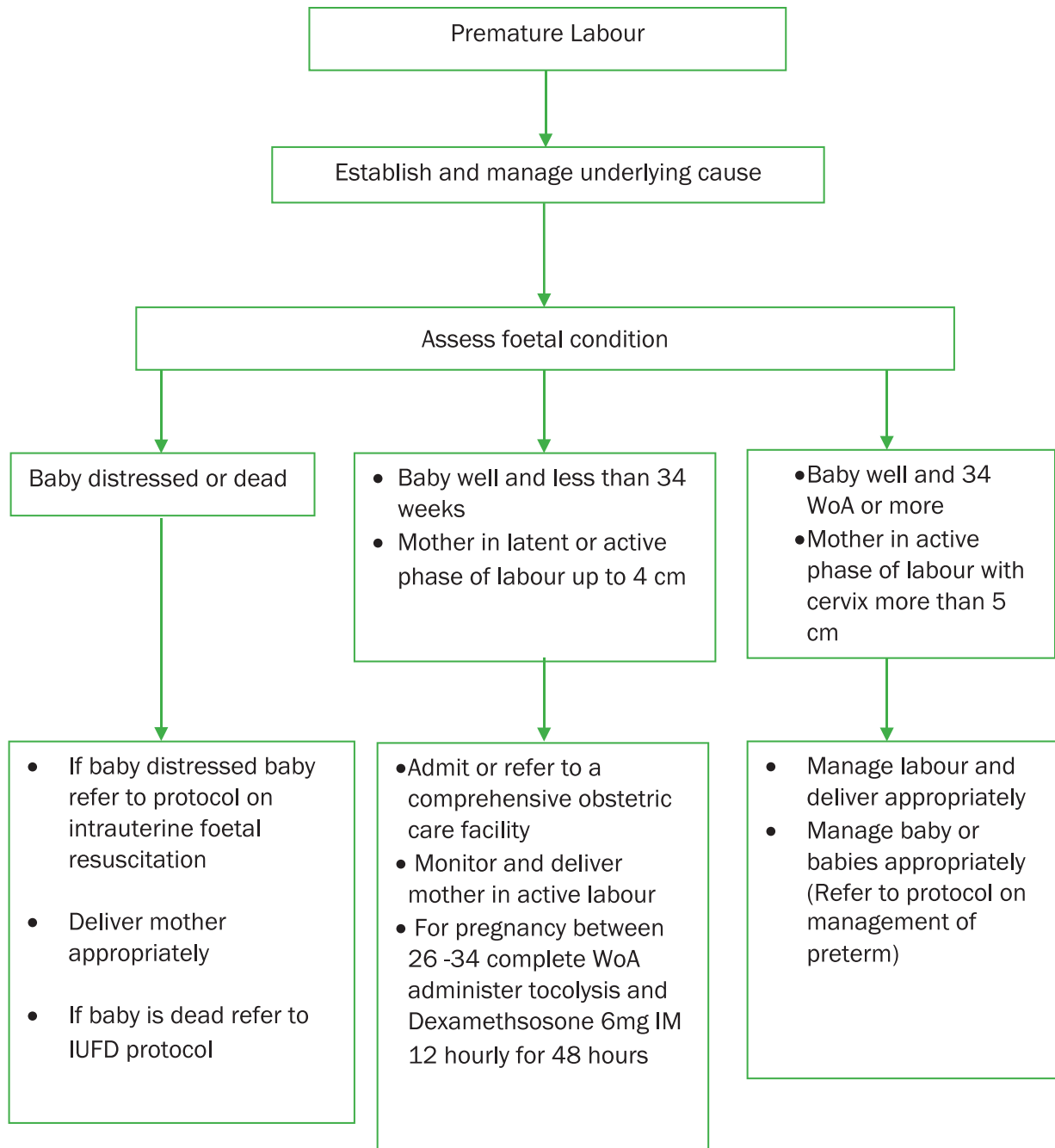
## Protocol 10: Management of preterm labour





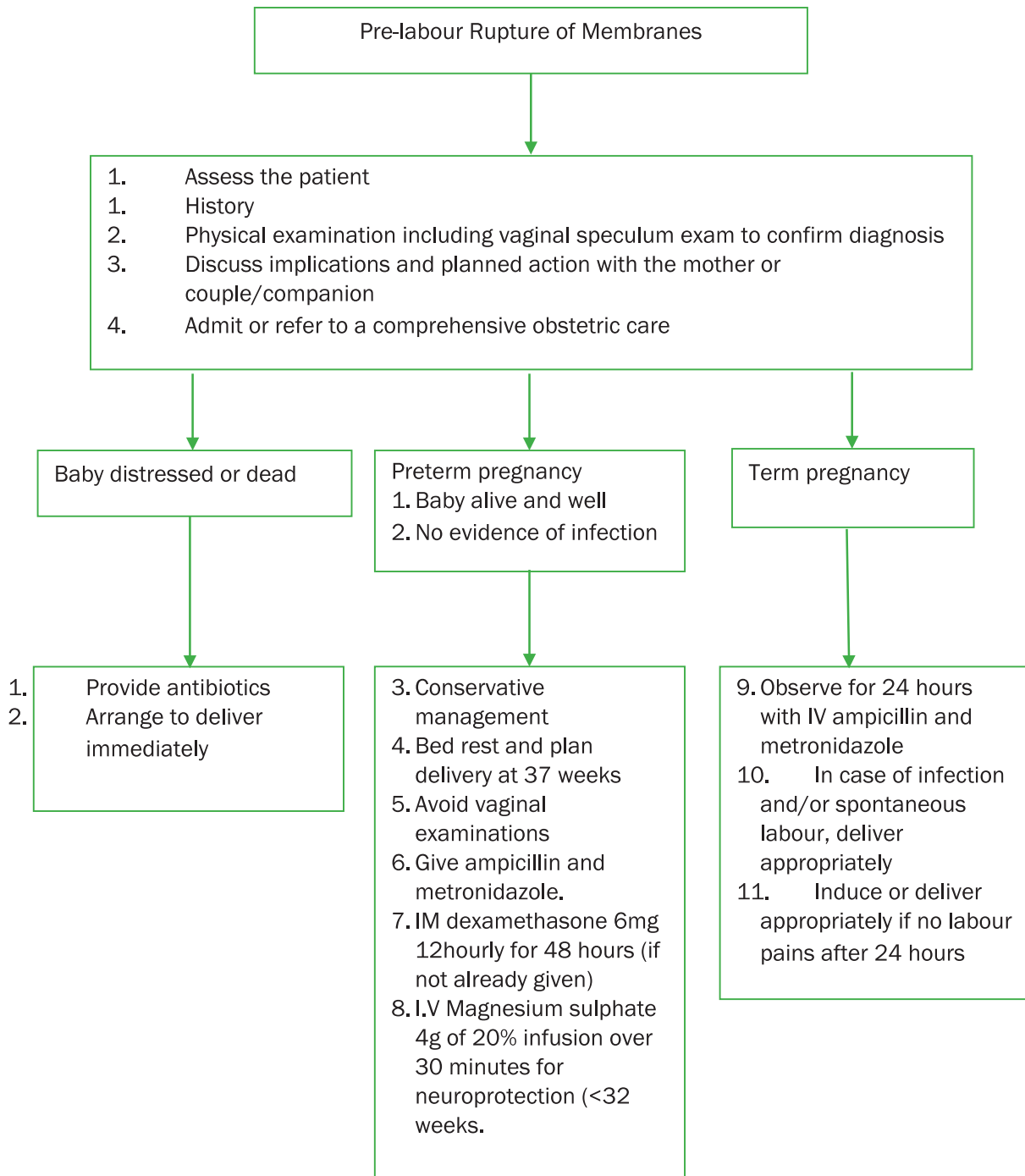


## Protocol 11: Management of premature Labour



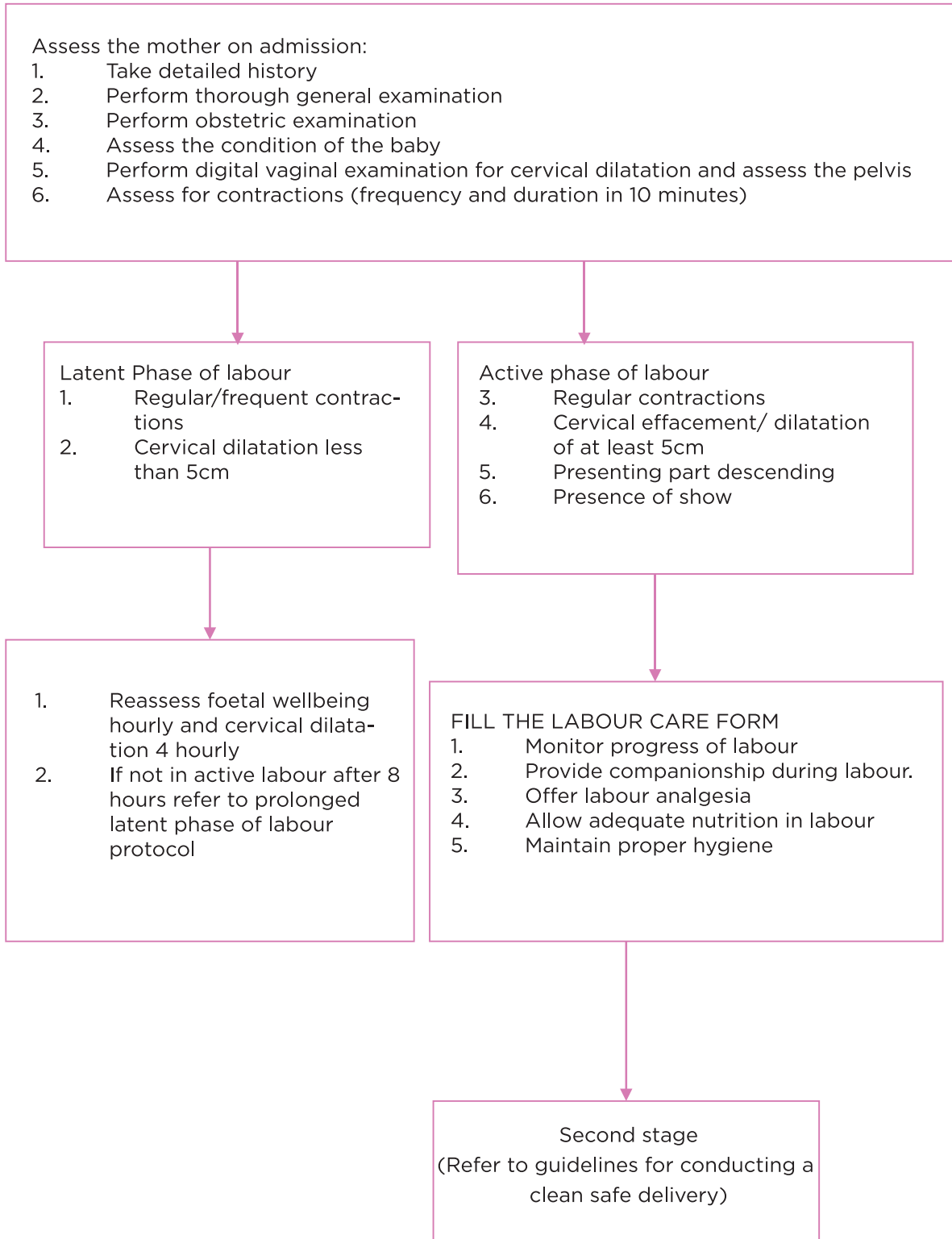


## Protocol 12: Pre-labour rupture of membranes





## Protocol 13: Management of first stage of labour on admission





## Protocol 14: Management of 2nd stage of labour

**Second Stage of Labour**

(Full cervical dilatation, adequate contractions without any contraindication to vaginal birth)  
Preparation for delivery (ensure the delivery instruments are sterile)  
Keep the delivery room ready at all times. Ensure privacy in case you have more than one mother. Prepare space for the companion

1. Ensure conducive environment (warm room, closed windows)
2. Prepare warm clothes for the baby
3. Prepare equipment and ensure sterile delivery sets are ready
4. Resuscitation bed and equipment ready
5. In expulsive stage, the second skilled birth assistant must draw the Oxytocin
6. When episiotomy is indicated prepare lignocaine and sutures
- 7.

1. Ensure every woman in labour achieves a positive childbirth experience.
2. Allow the mother to decide on her preferable position of delivery and support her to enjoy respectful maternity care
3. Observe universal infection prevention practices
4. Provide emotional, physical comfort and support including a labour companion of the mother's choice
5. Monitor foetal heart rate every 5 minutes
6. Assess for descent of presenting part
7. Assess and record contractions every 5 minutes
8. Measure and record blood pressure and pulse rate – every 30 minutes
9. Take and record respiratory rate – every 15 minutes
10. Observe mother for bleeding
11. If the mother feels like bearing down encourage her to push if she is in the expulsive phase of second stage
12. Conduct the delivery

13. Encourage the mother to bear down with each contraction
14. Assess need for episiotomy.
15. Deliver the head with contractions
16. Clear the baby's airway as soon as the head is born
17. Feel for the cord around the neck. If loose cord, slip over the head. If tight, double clump, cut and unwind
18. Deliver the baby and place on the clean warm cloth on the mother's abdomen and note the time of delivery
19. Palpate the abdomen to exclude second baby
20. Give IM oxytocin 10IU to the mother's anterior outer aspect of the thigh with a flexed hip within one minute of delivery of the baby. Dry the baby, provide skin to skin contact
21. Assess APGAR score at 1 minute and 5 minutes and resuscitate as required (refer to asphyxia protocol)
22. Delay cord clamping for 1 to 3 minutes if baby is well. If baby unwell, refer to Neonatal resuscitation protocols
23. Firmly clamp the cord at 3-5 finger breadths (6cm-10cm) from the baby's abdomen and cut in between the two clamps (use cord scissors/sterile blade)
24. Deliver the placenta and membranes by controlled cord traction and note the time (Refer to protocol for management of third stage of labour)
25. Congratulate and thank the mother
26. Initiate breast feeding within 30 minutes
27. Write complete delivery notes and schedule immunisation



## Protocol 15: Routine management of third stage

Active Management of third stage of labour

Give IM oxytocin 10IU to the mother's anterior outer aspect of the thigh with a flexed hip within 1 minute of delivery of the baby  
or sublingual misoprostol 600mcg  
or IM Carbetocin 100mcg.

Deliver the placenta and membranes by sustained gentle/controlled cord traction with counter traction just above the symphysis pubis to prevent uterine inversion.  
Inspect the placenta and membranes for completeness  
Massage the uterus to stimulate uterine contractions and expel clots every 15 minutes for 1 hour  
Inspect the genital tract for tears and repair accordingly  
Collect the blood on the delivery bed, measure with a calibrated cylinder and record blood volume.

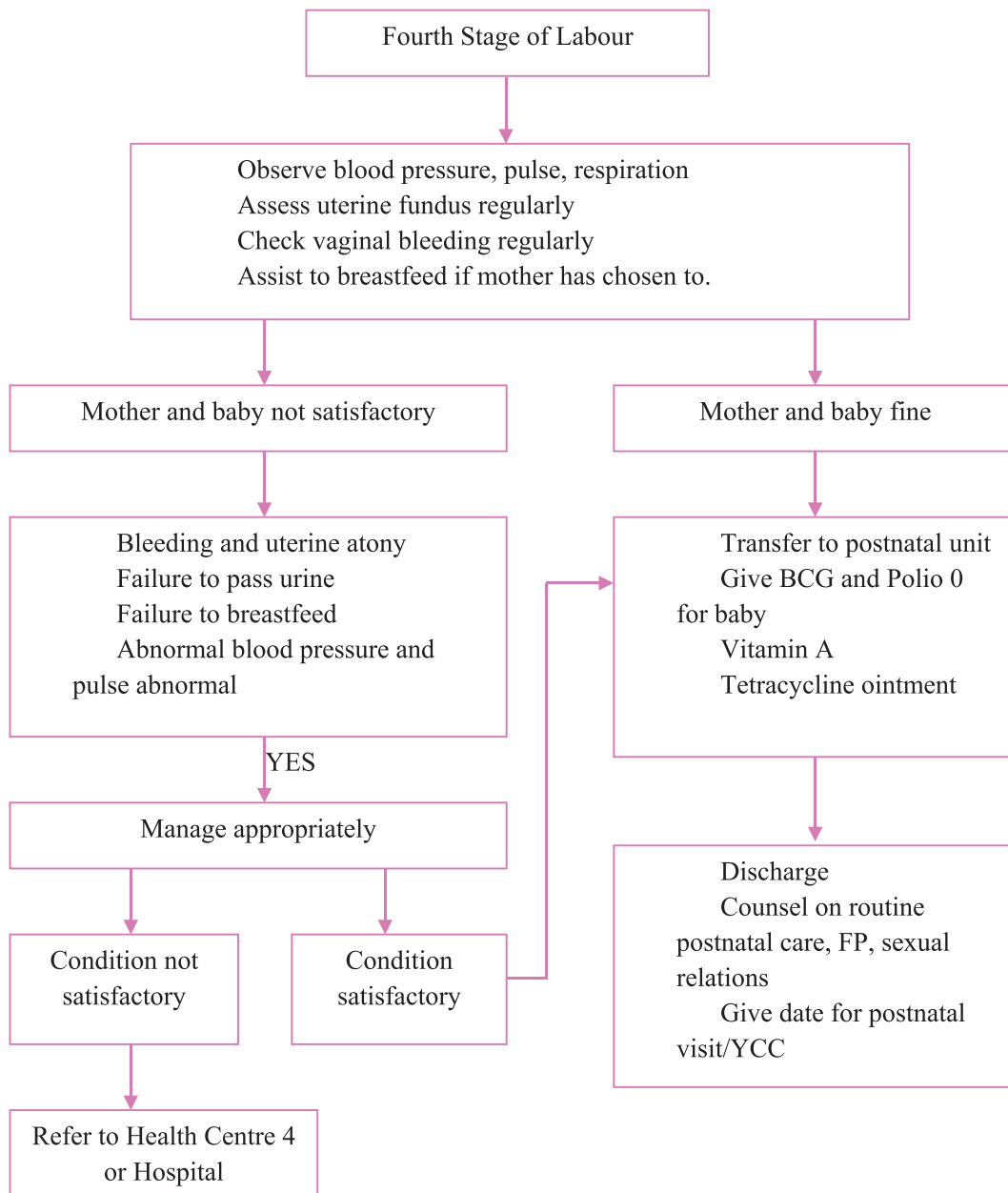
1. Take post -delivery observations
2. Clean the mother
3. Examine placenta

1. Show the baby to the mother and ask her to identify the sex
2. Repair episiotomy if performed
3. Keep the mother and the baby warm
4. Apply Ambigel on the cord and 1% tetracycline eye ointment and give 1mg of Vit K IM if >2.5kg (0.5mg if <2.5kg)
5. Examine and label the baby (include the name of mother, time & date of delivery. If twins include the birth order.
6. Document the delivery outcomes on the Labour care form



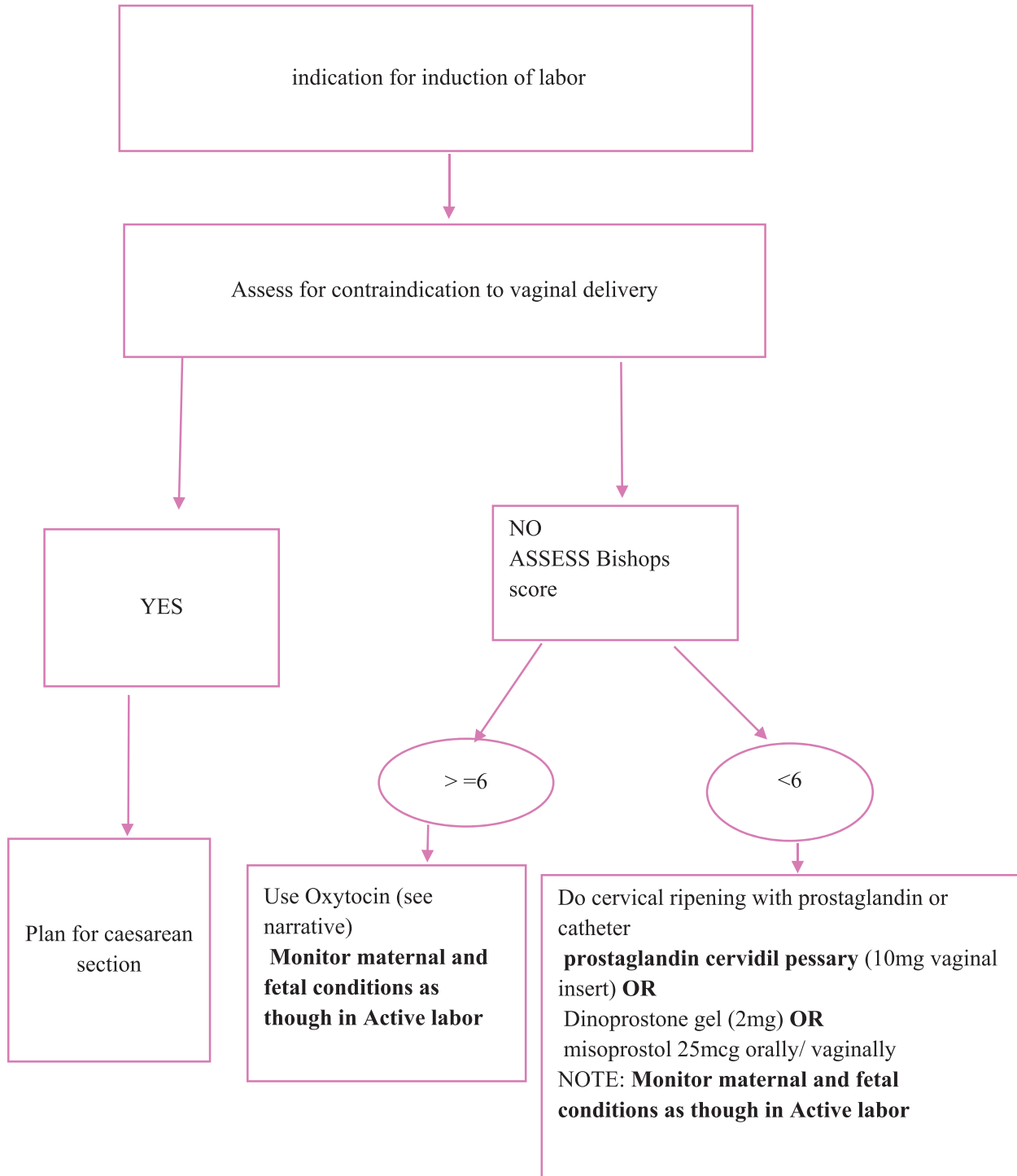


## Protocol 16: Management of FOURTH STAGE OF LABOUR



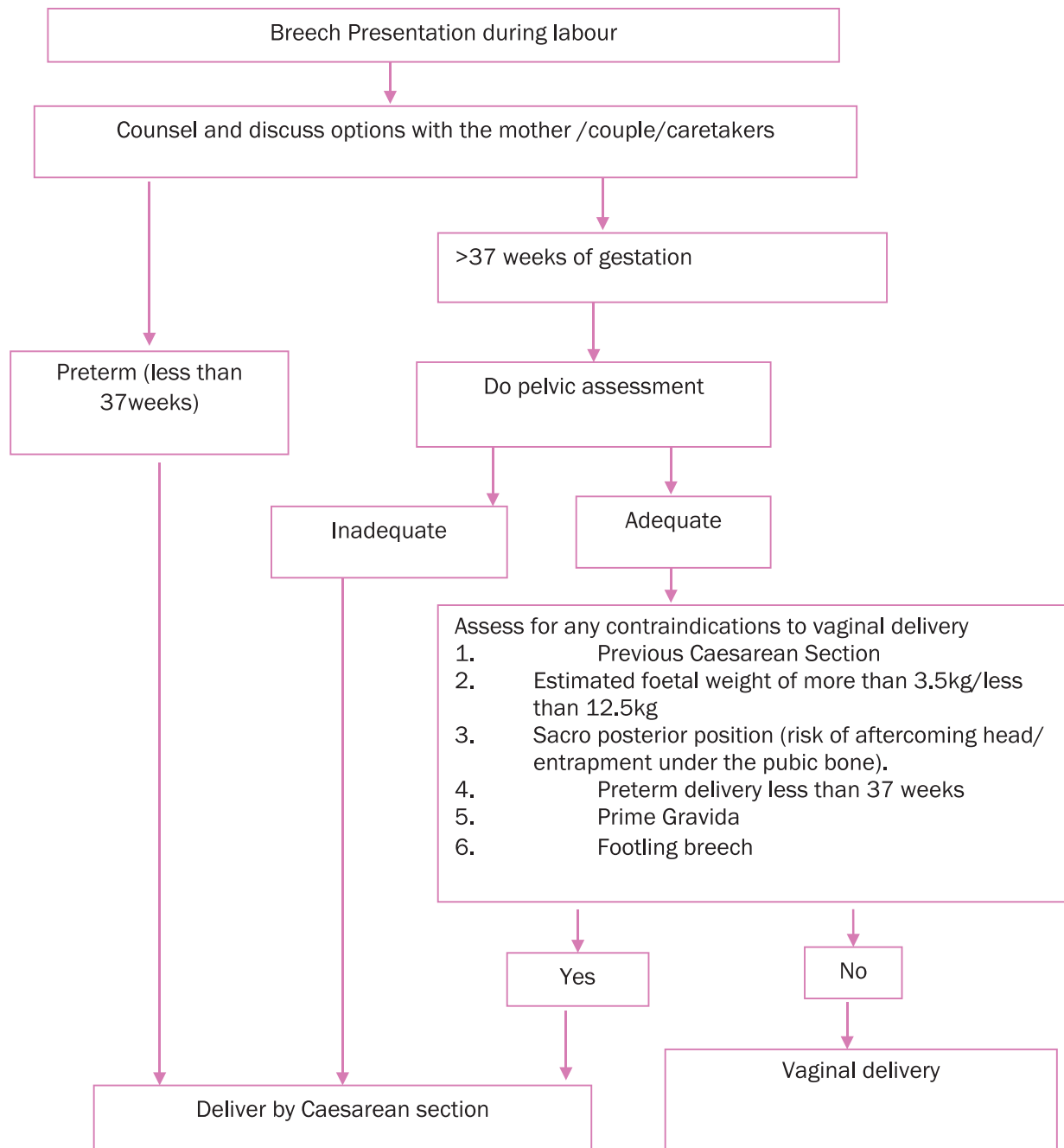


## Protocol 17: Induction of labor



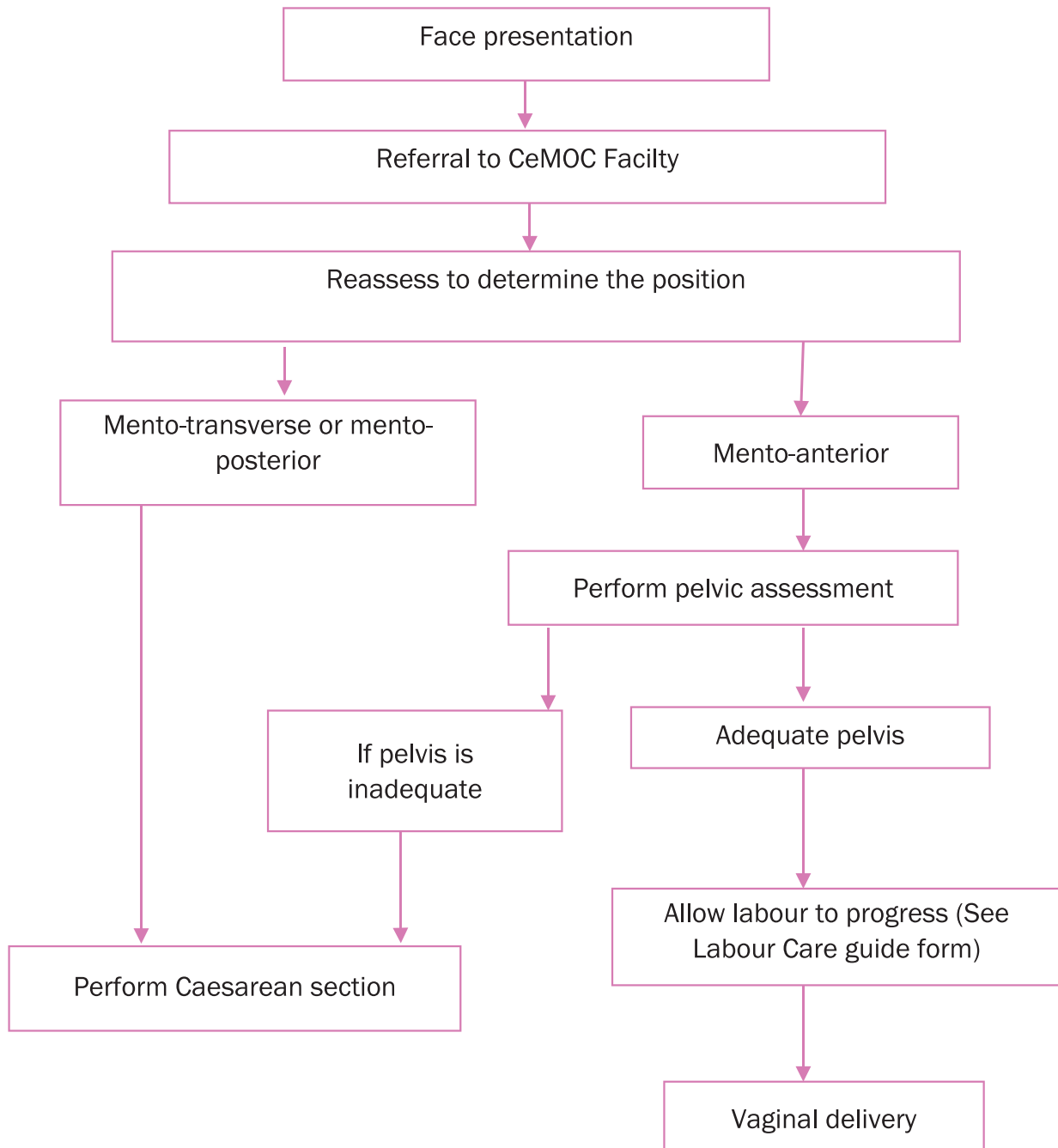


## Protocol 18: Breech presentation during labour



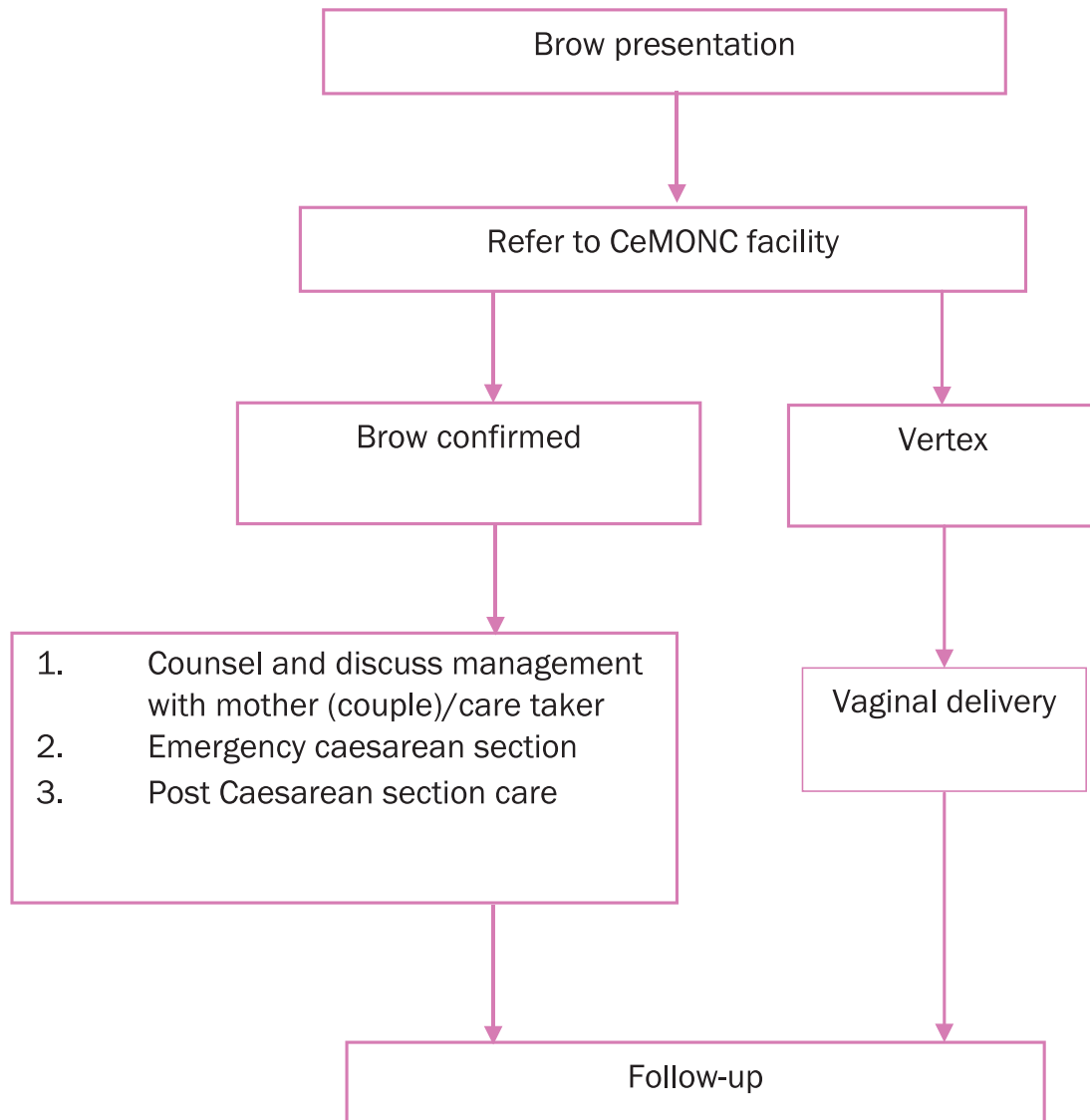


## Protocol 19: Management of Face Presentation





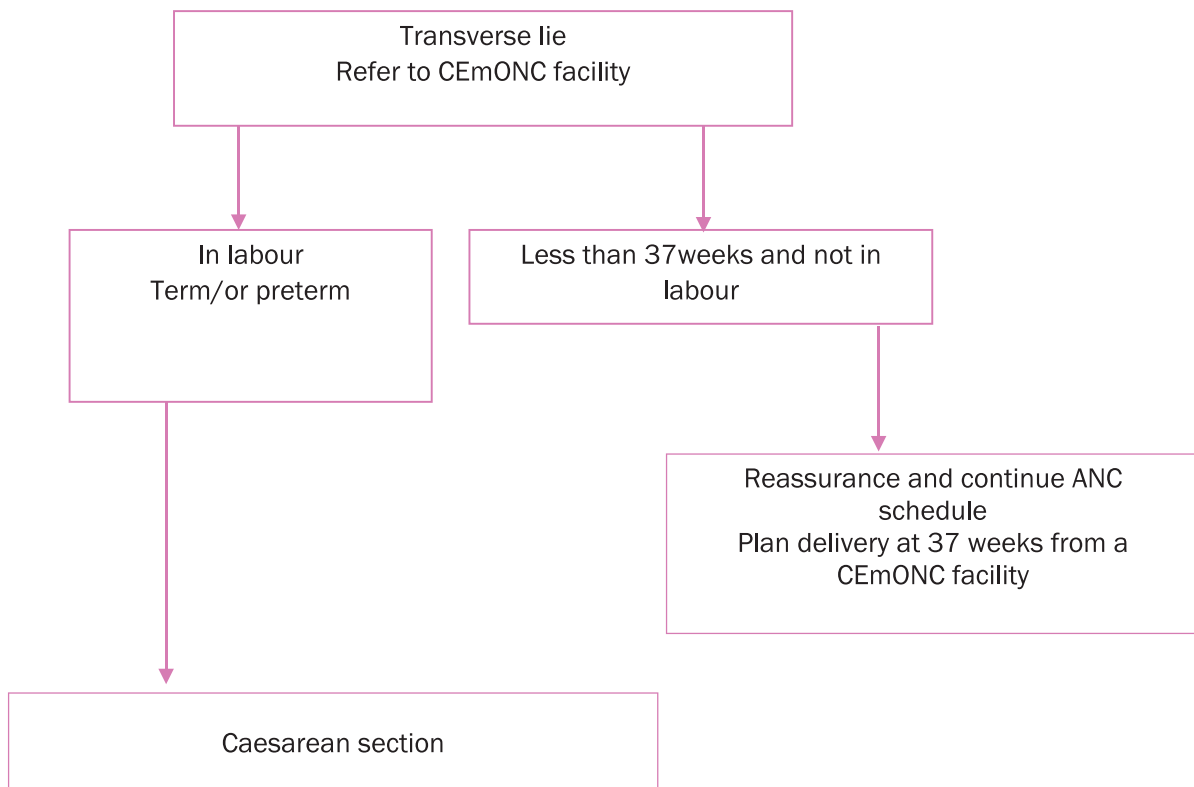
## Protocol 20: Brow presentation





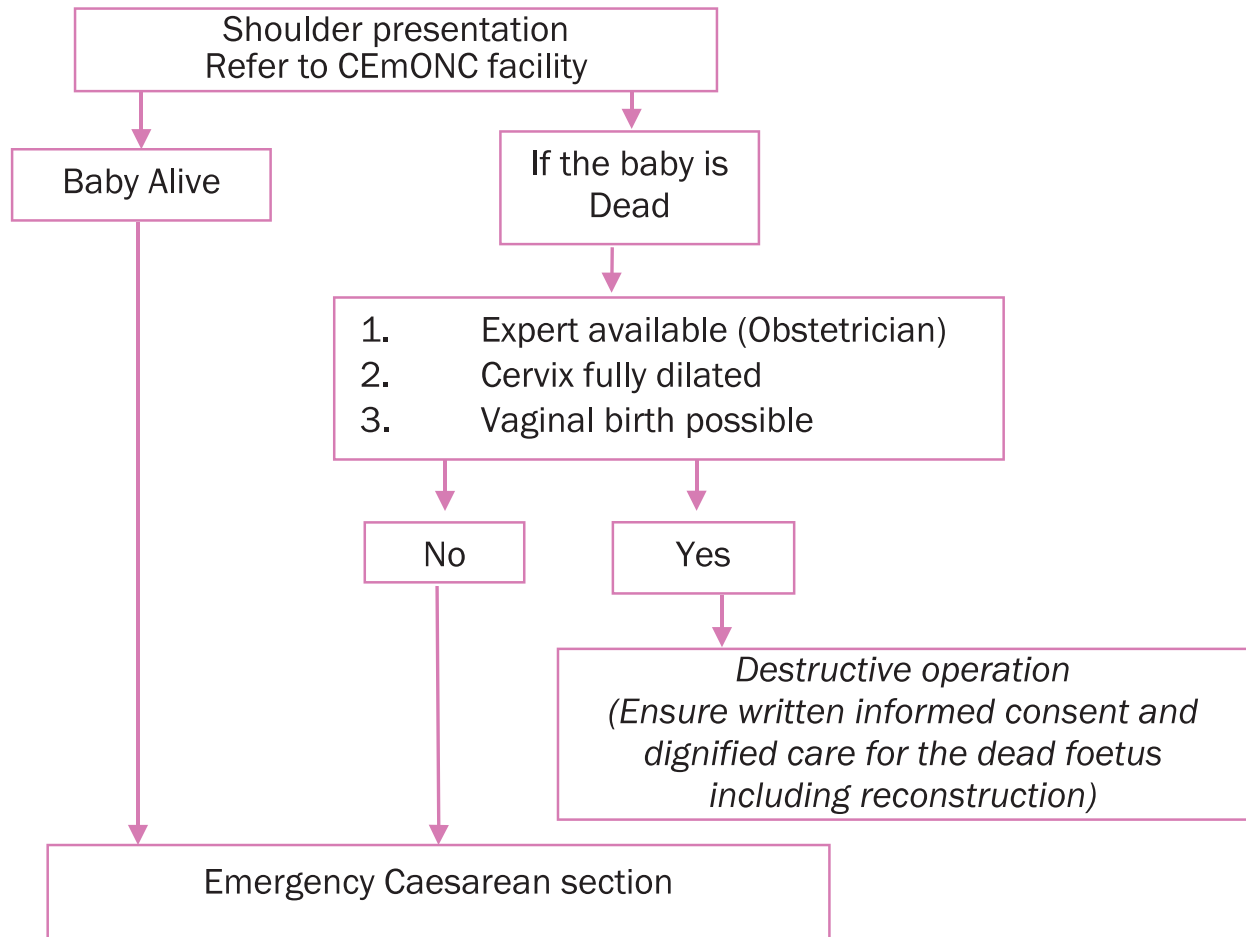


## Protocol 21: Management of transverse lie



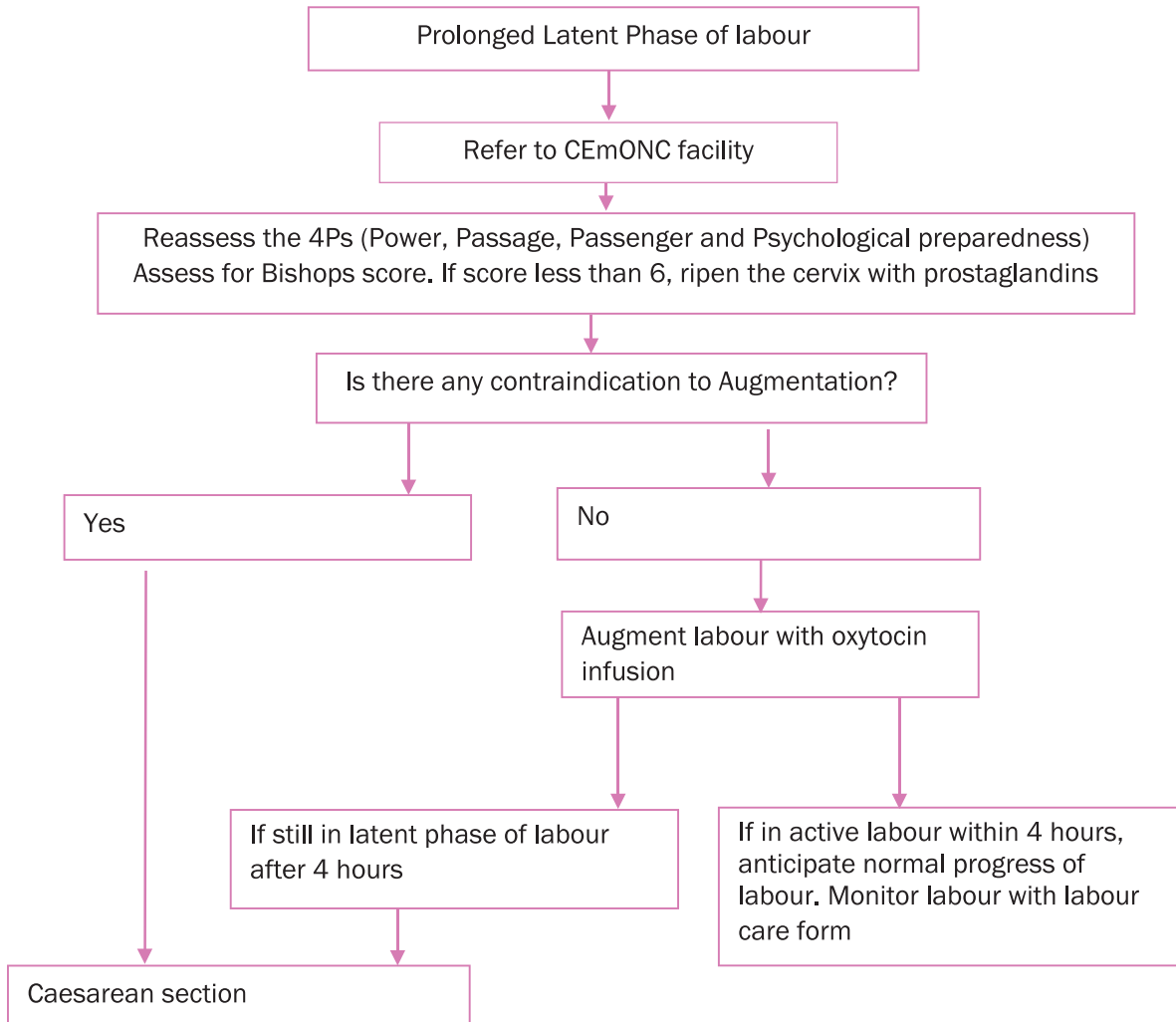


## Protocol 22: Management of Shoulder presentation



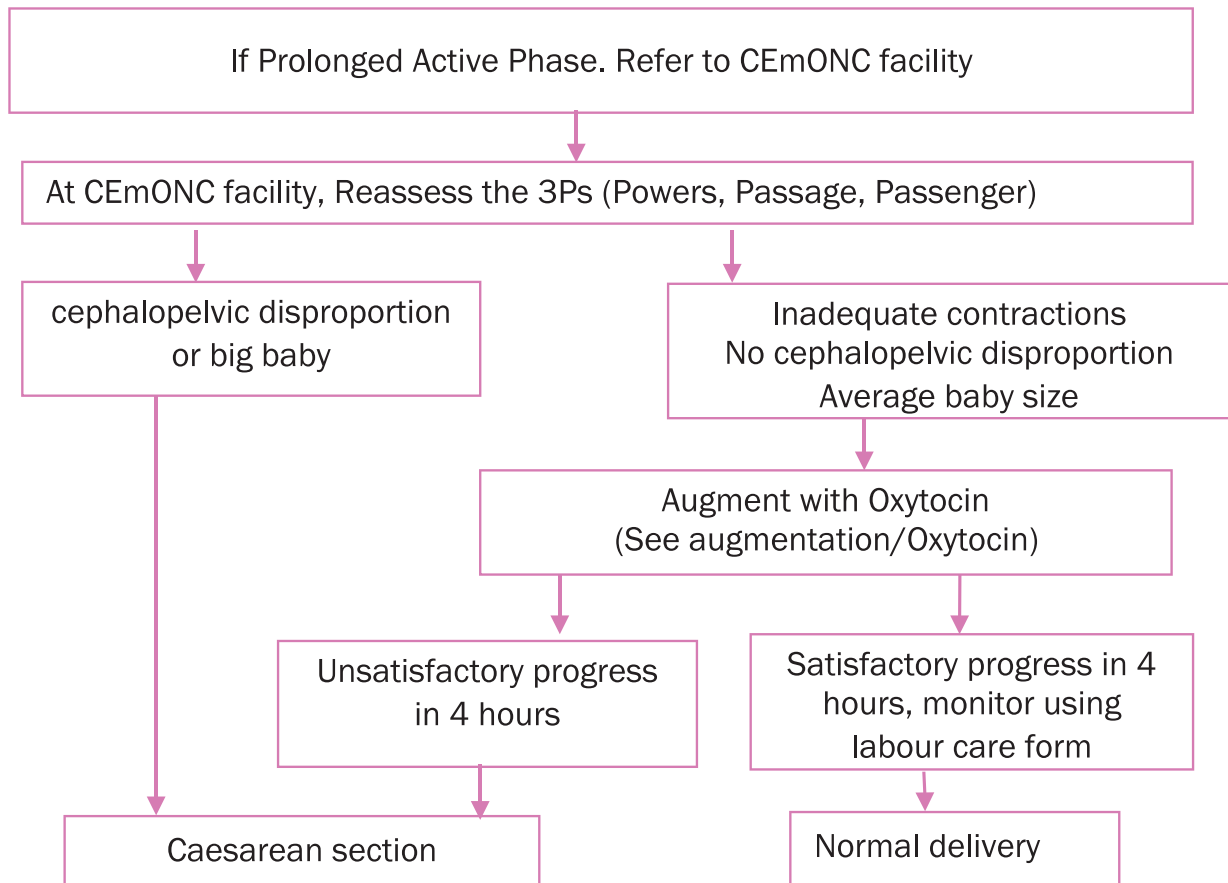


## Protocol 23: Management of prolonged latent phase

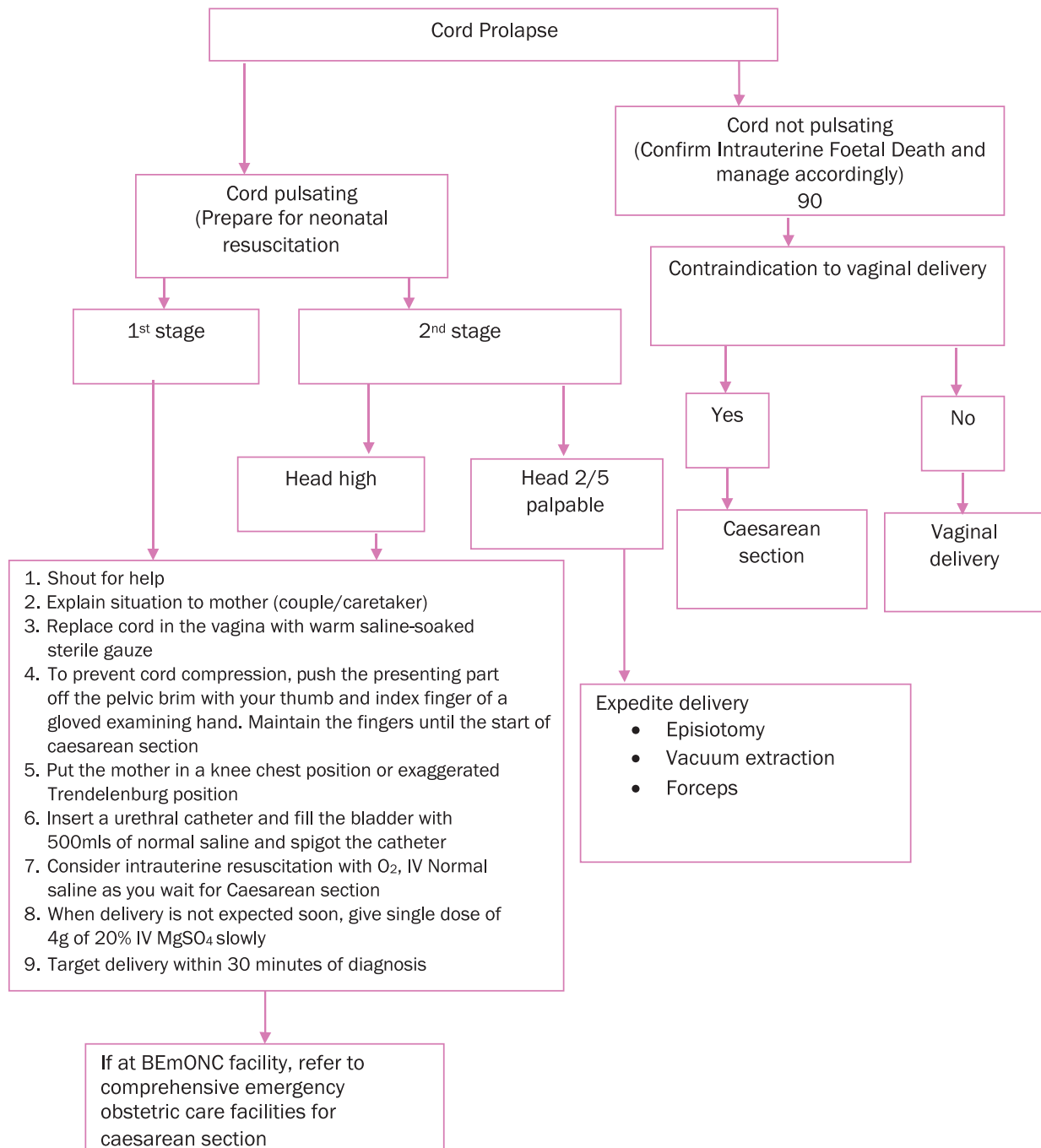




## Protocol 24: Prolonged active labour

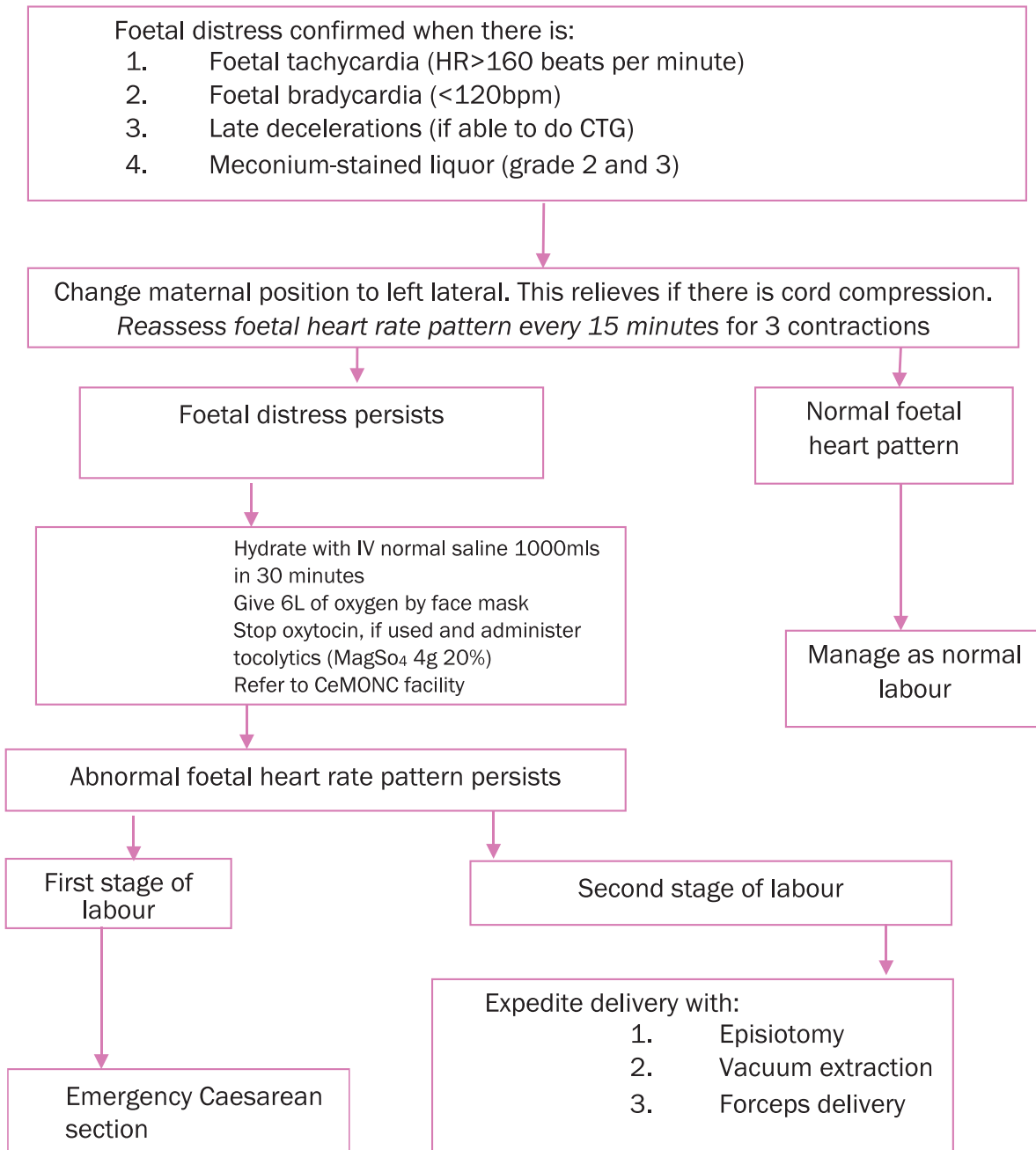


## Protocol 25: Management of cord prolapse



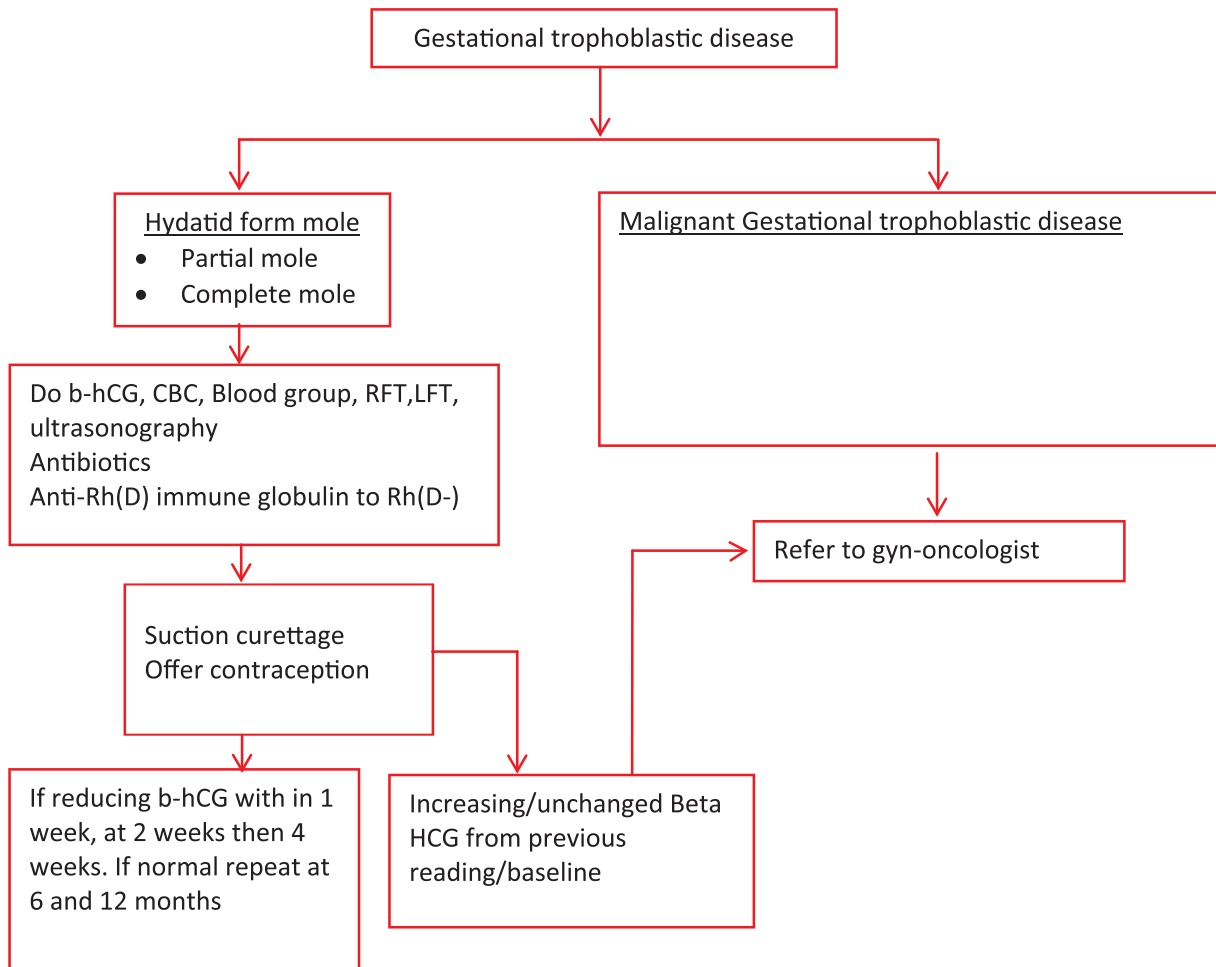


## Protocol 26: Management of foetal distress (without cord prolapse)

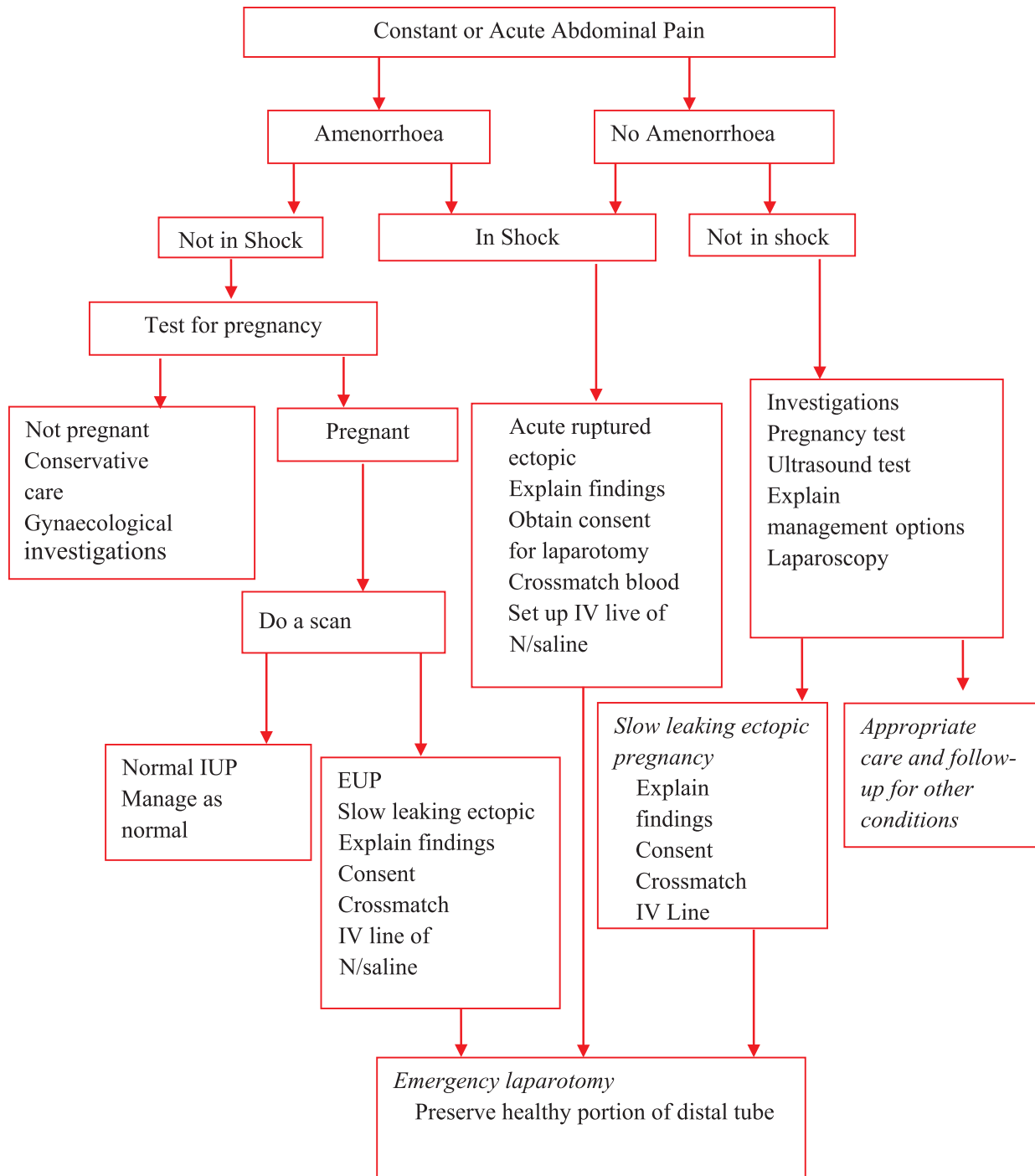




## Protocol 27: Management of Gestational Trophoblastic Disease



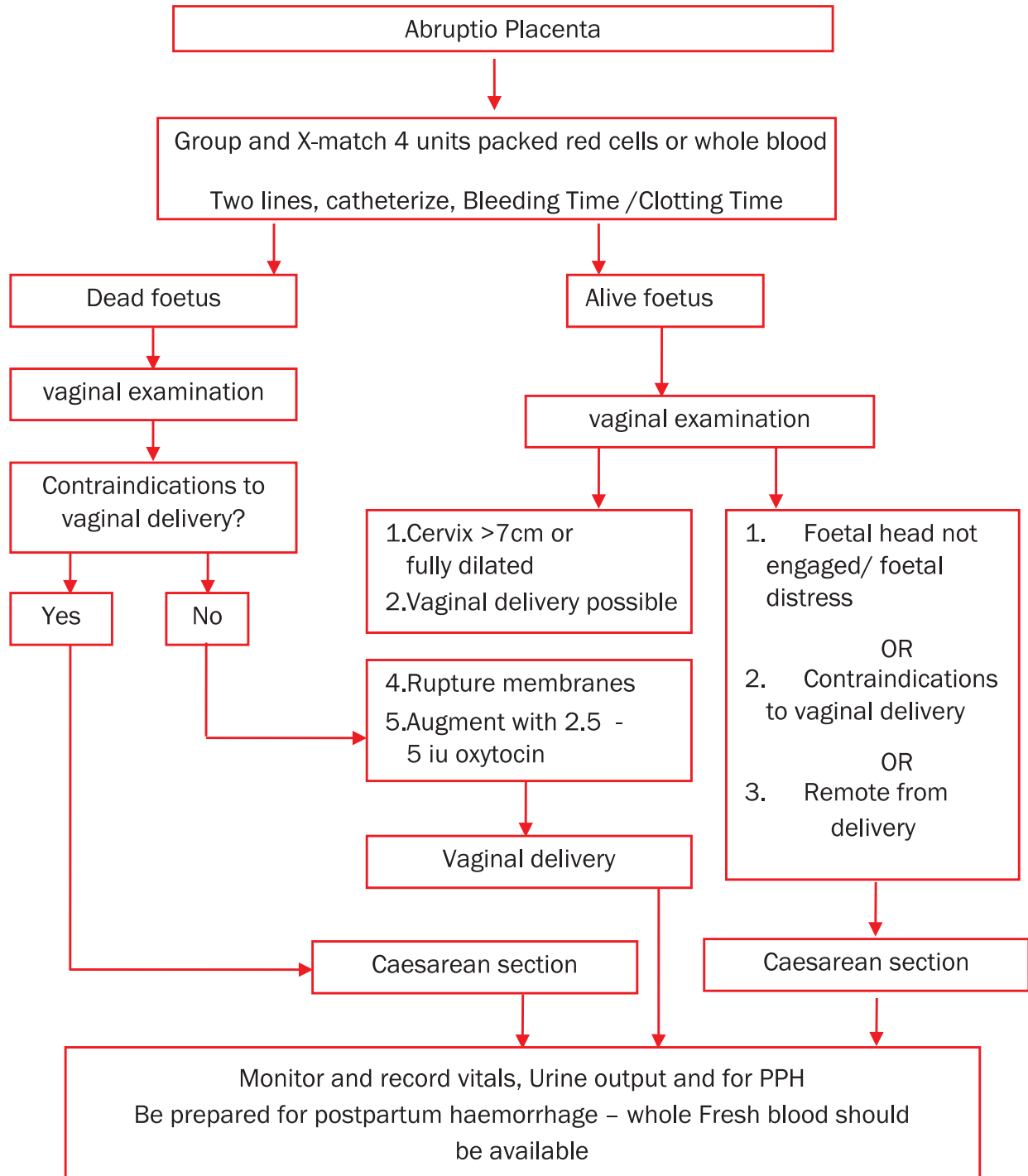
## Protocol 28: Management of Ectopic Pregnancy





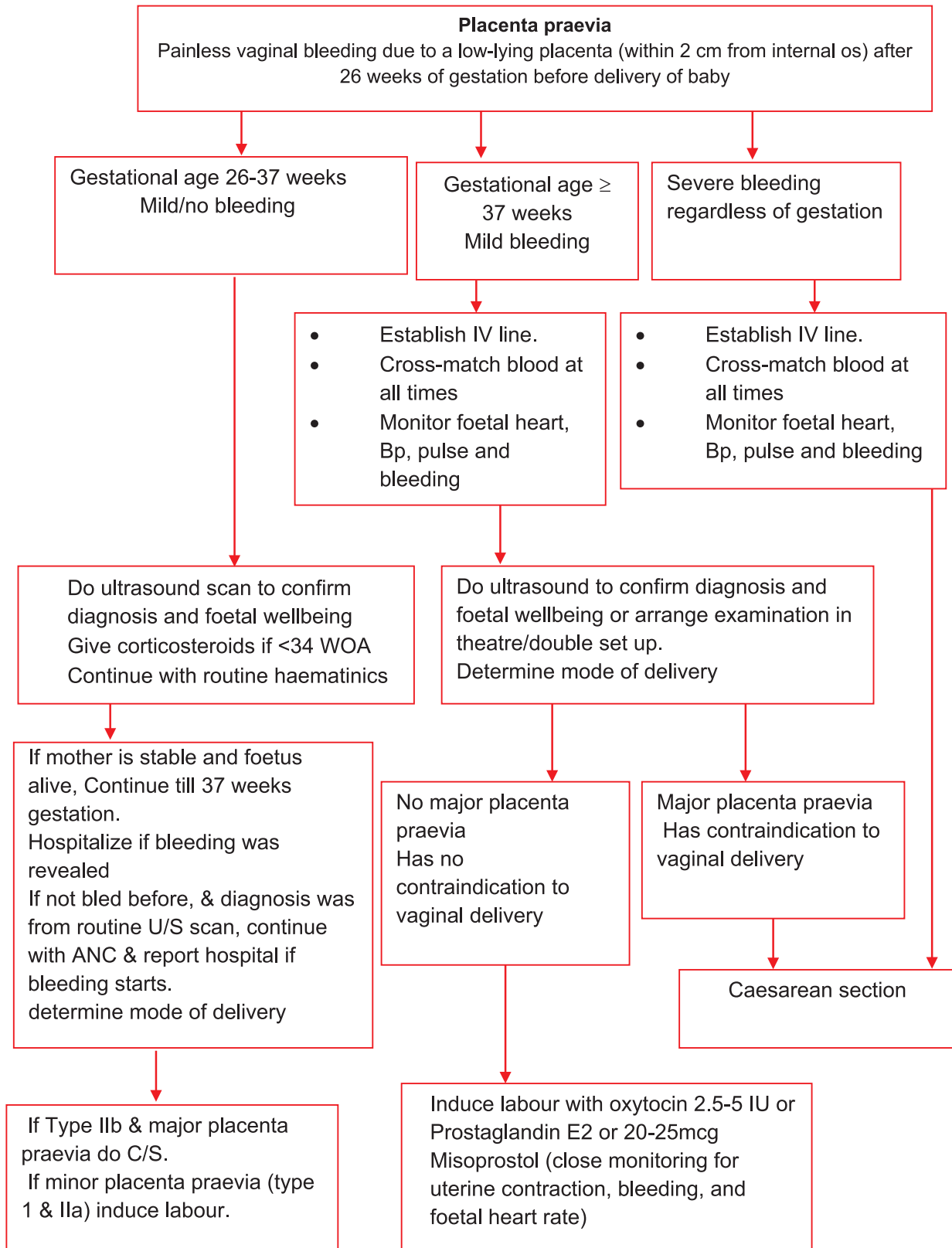


## Protocol 29: Protocol on Abruption Placenta



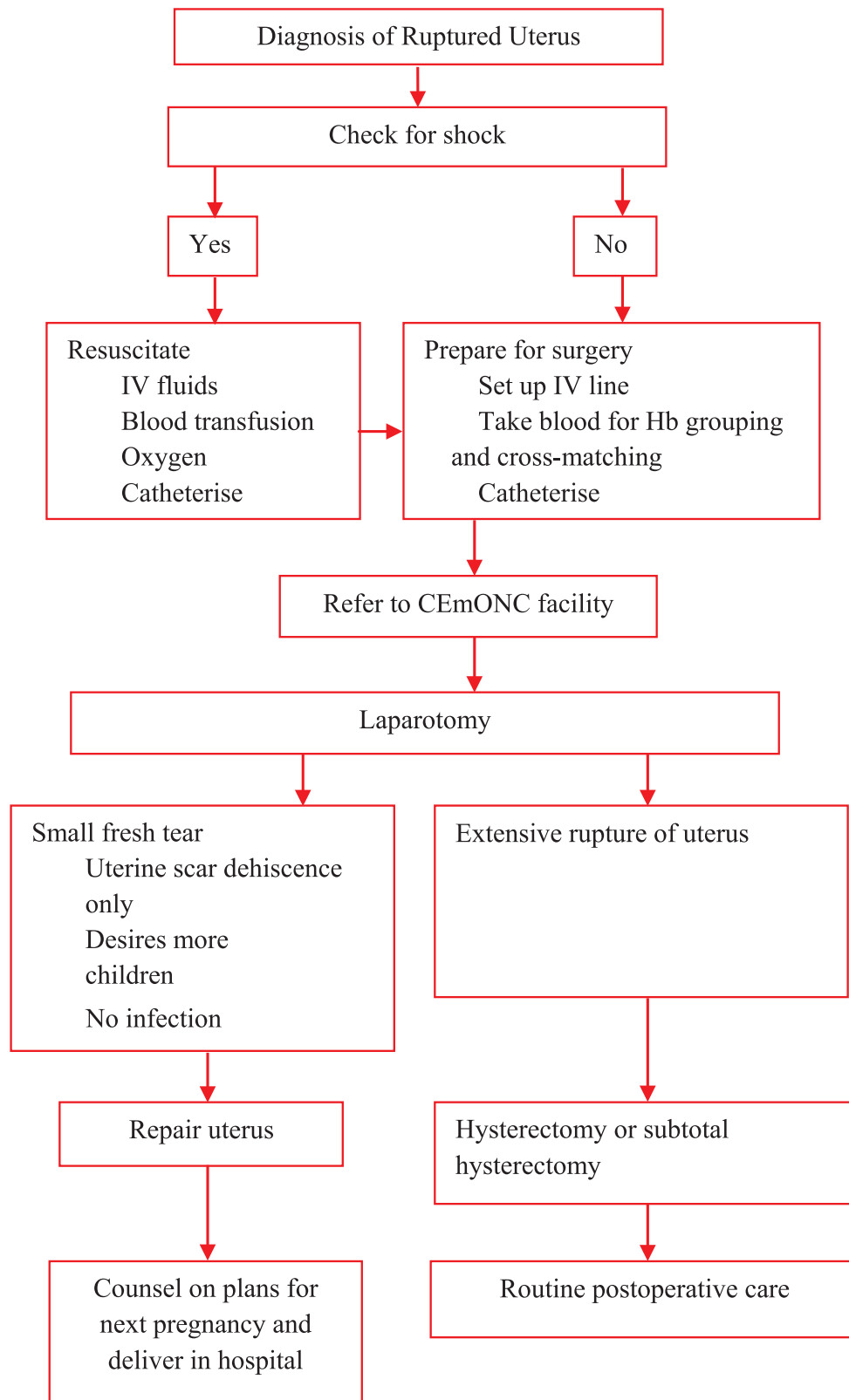


## Protocol 30: Placenta Praevia



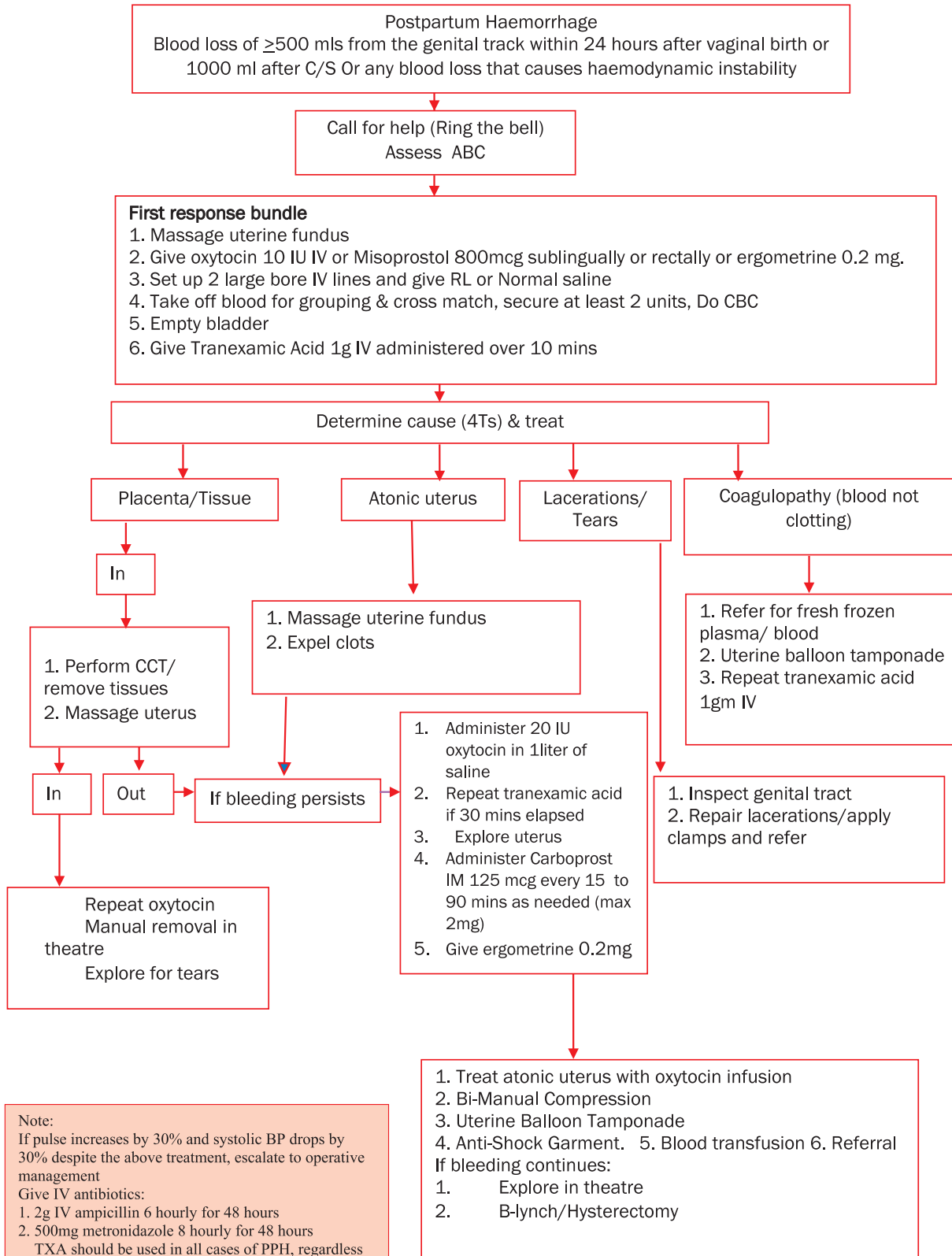


## Protocol 31: Management of Ruptured Uterus



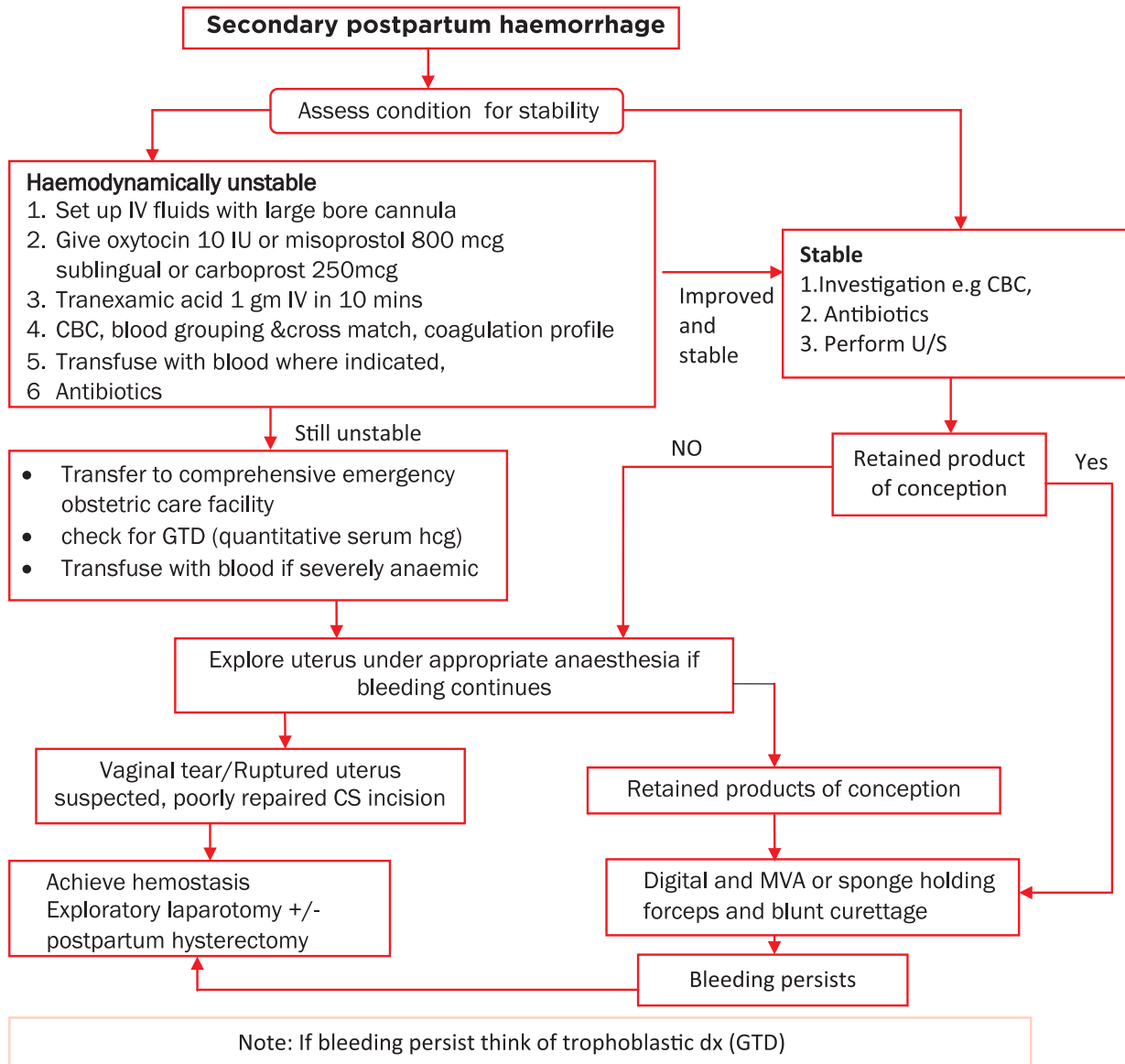


## Protocol 32: Management of primary postpartum haemorrhage

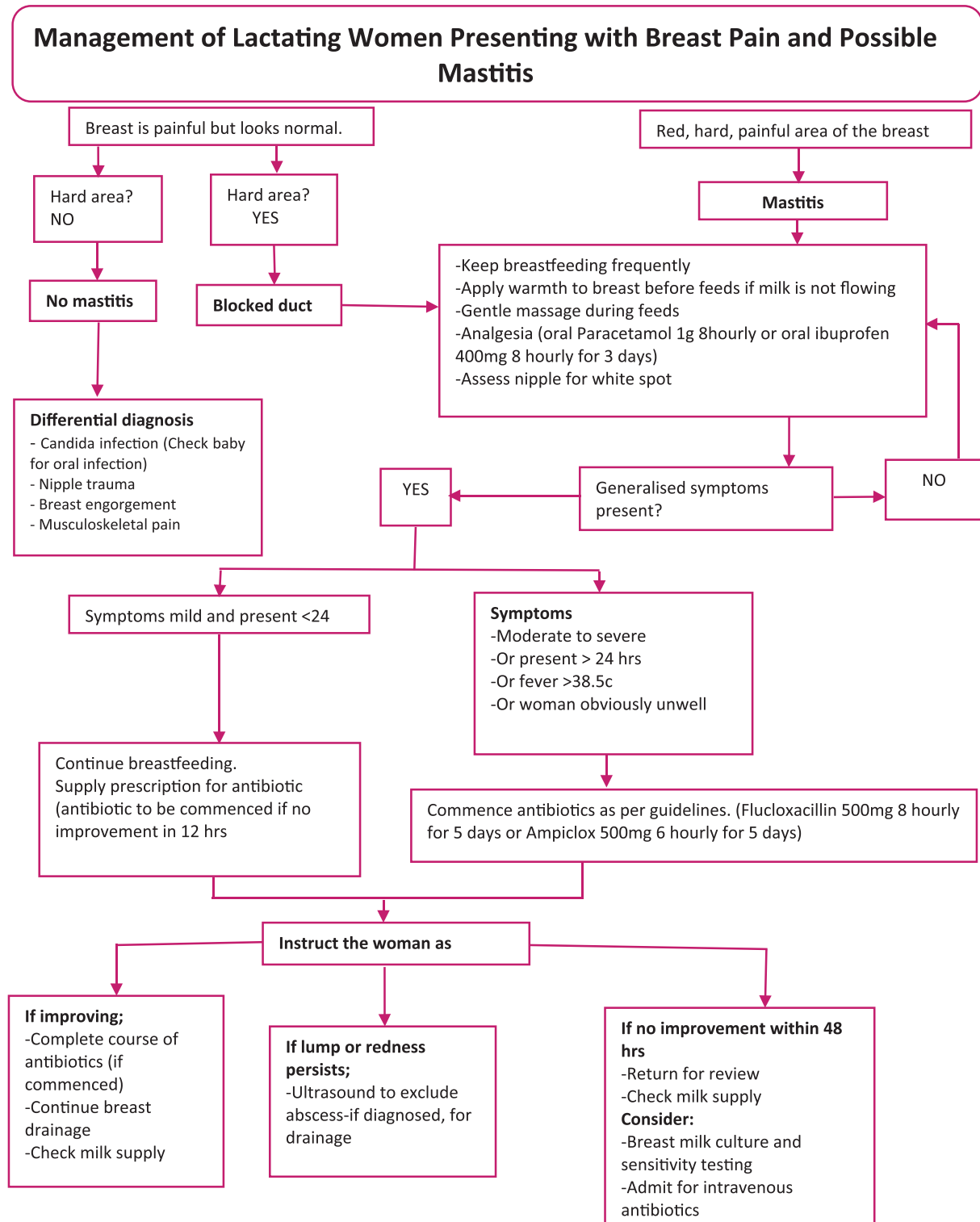




## Protocol 33: Management of secondary postpartum haemorrhage

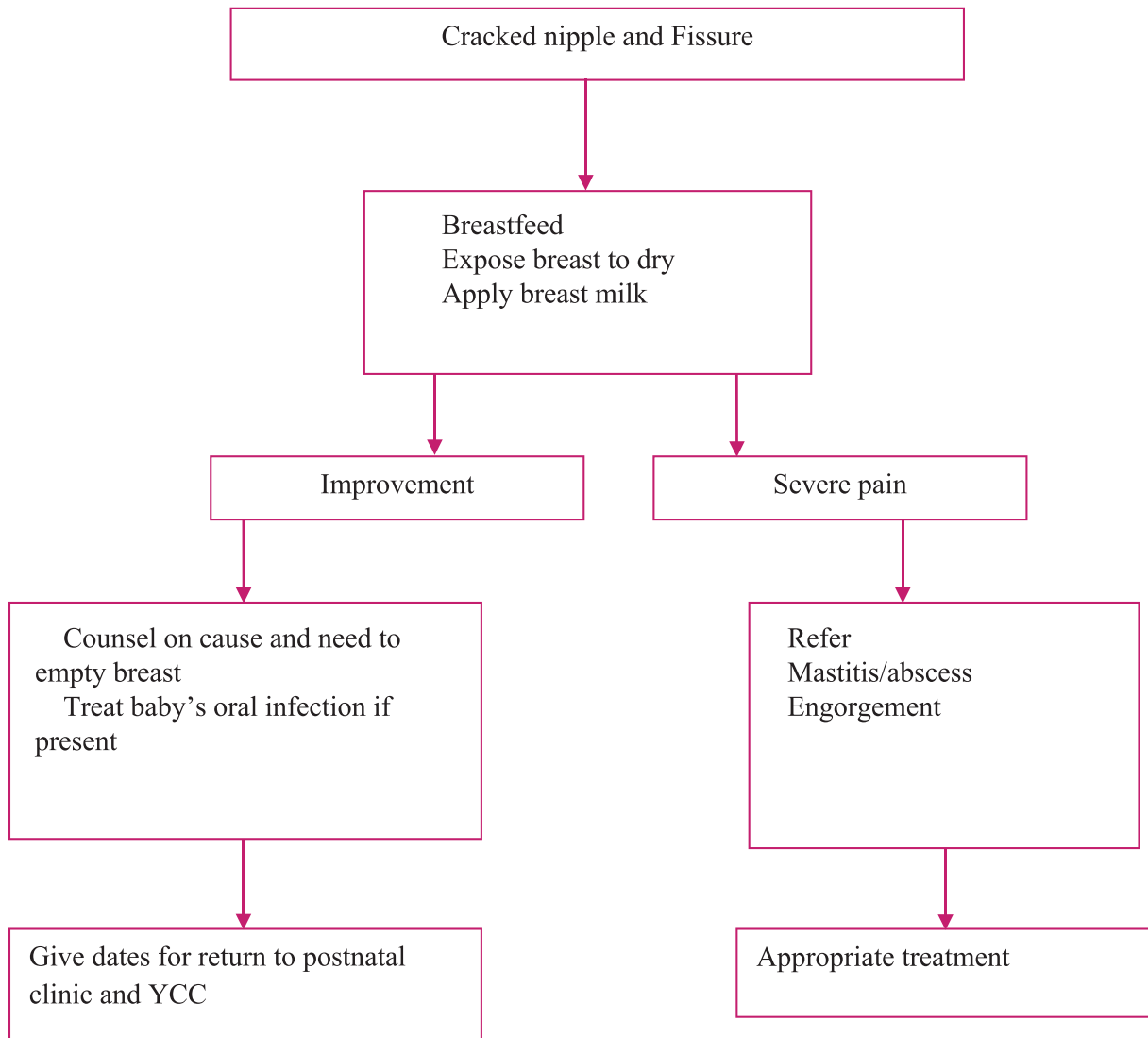


## Protocol 34: Breast Engorgement and Mastitis

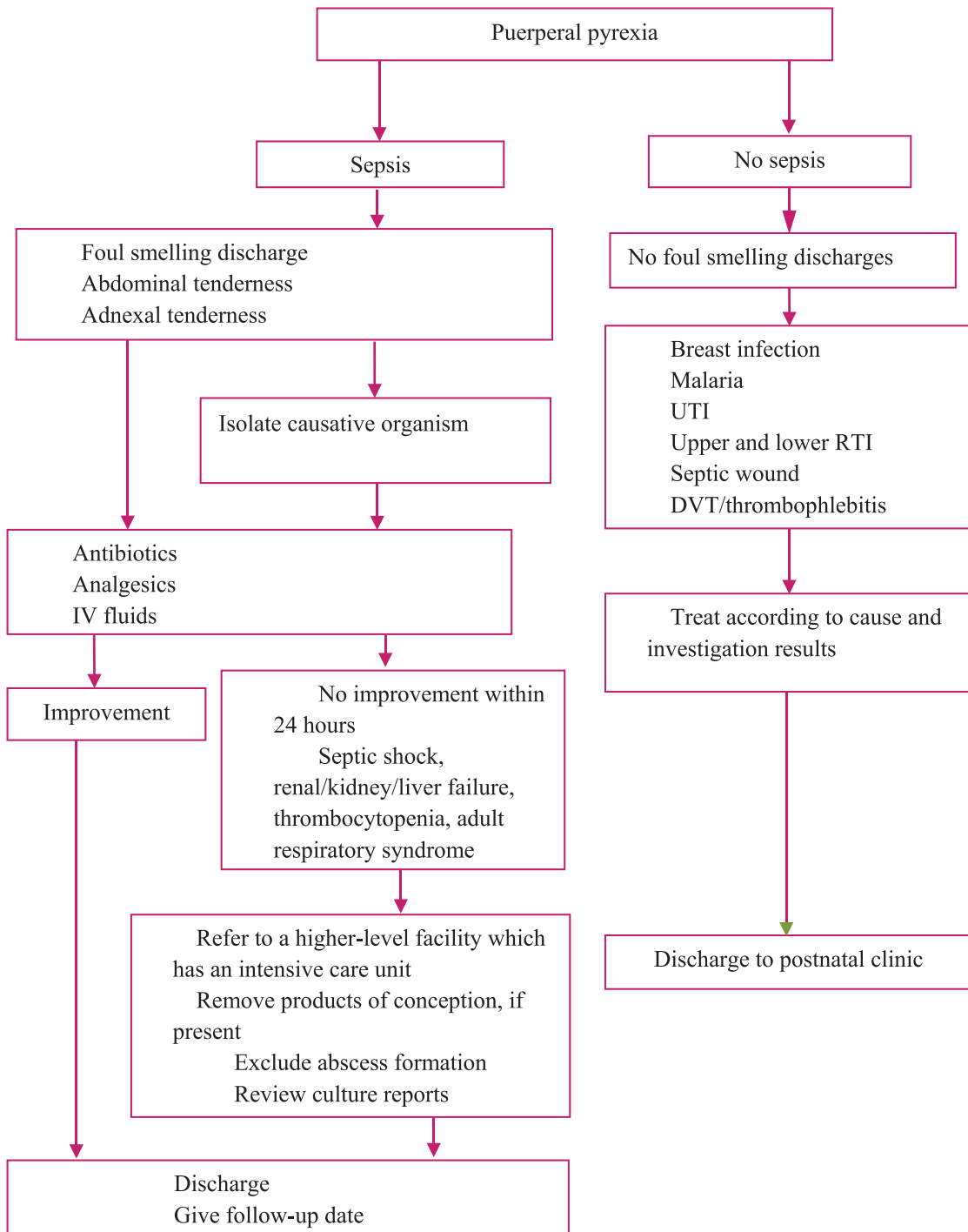




## Protocol 35: Management of cracked/sore nipples



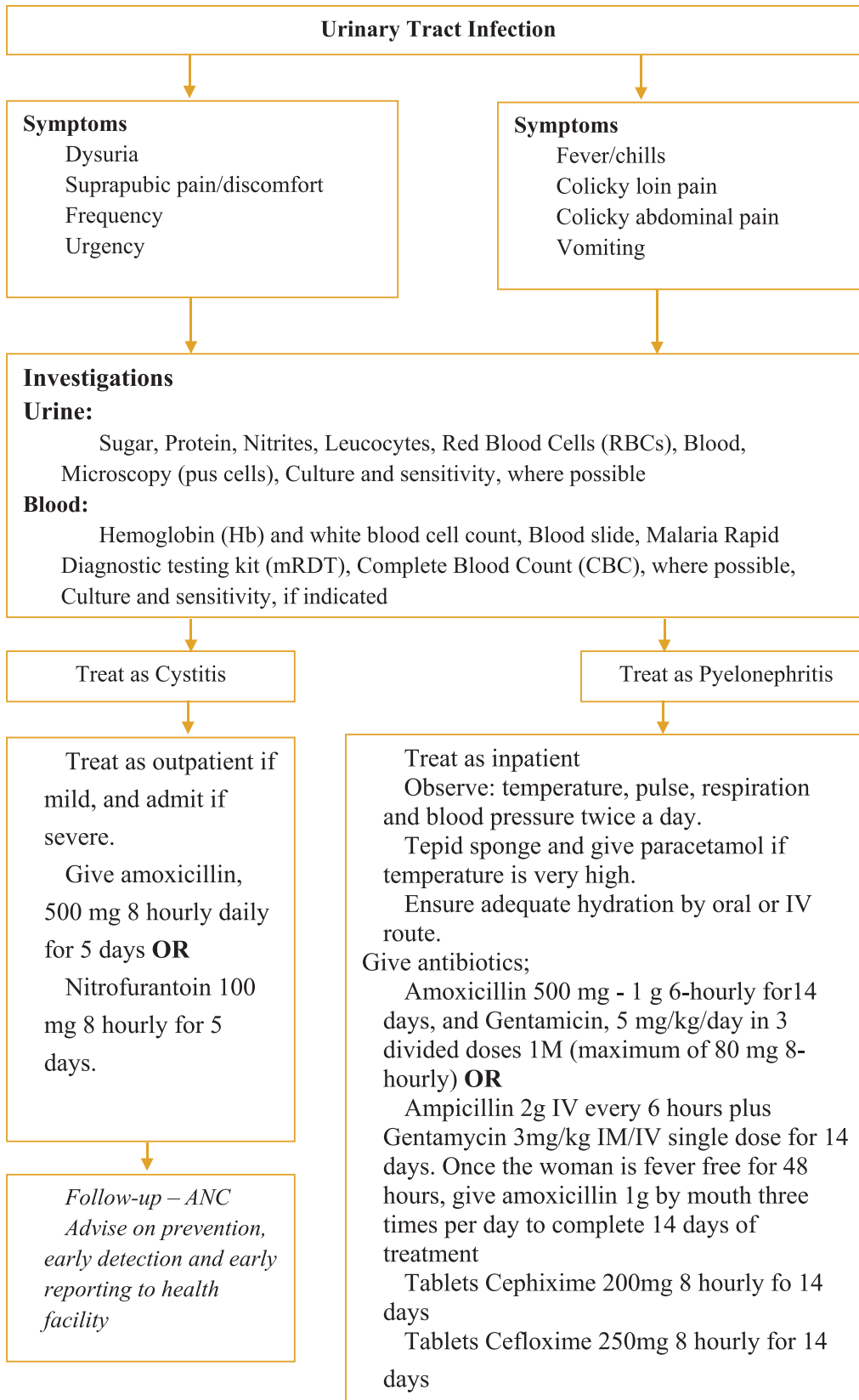
## Protocol 36: Management of puerperal sepsis



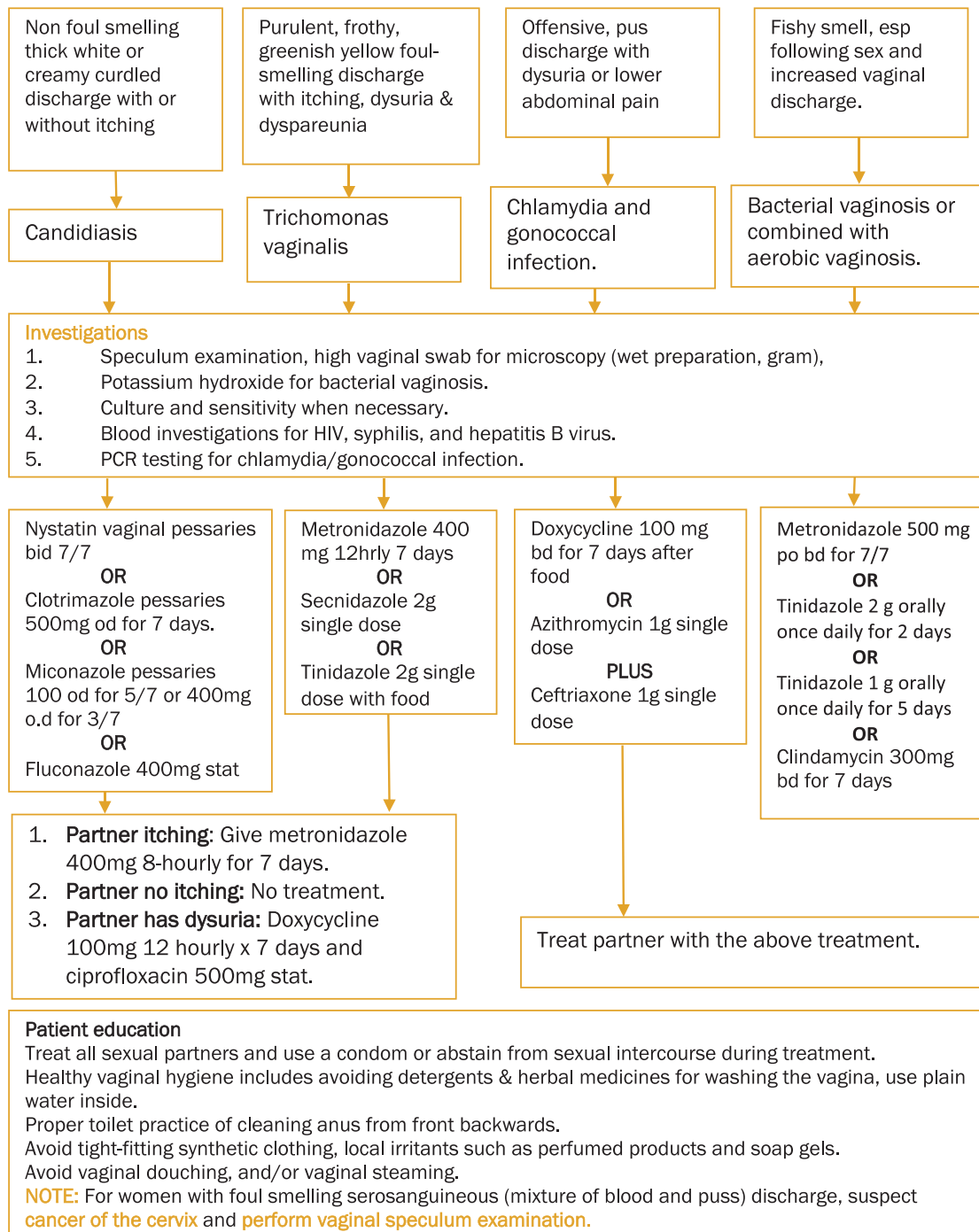




## Protocol 37: Management of urinary tract infection

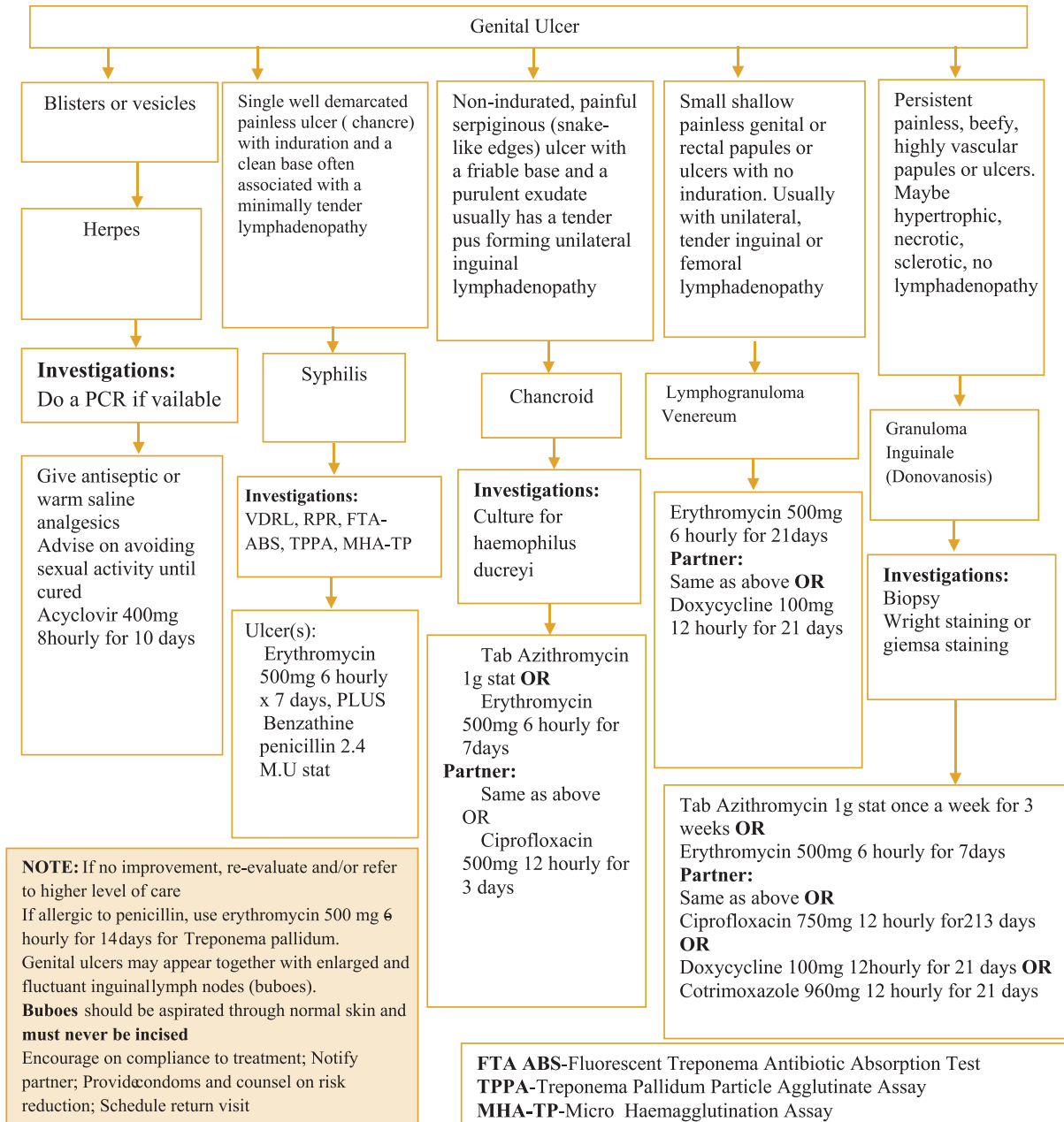


## Protocol 38: Abnormal Vaginal Discharge





## Protocol 39: Genital Ulcer





## Protocol 40: Bartholin's Abscess

### Bartholin's Abscess

- Painful swelling on one or both side of the introitus at 4 & 8 O'clock positions.
- Patient may find it hard or impossible to walk, sit, or have sexual intercourse.
- Fever may be present in one-fifth of patients.
- Previous history of vulval mass especially Bartholin's cyst
- Assess for Comorbidities, including diabetes or immunosuppression.
- Genital exam may reveal a tender fluctuant Bartholin's gland – usually

#### Investigations

1. Exudate from the mass for Culture & Sensitivity to exclude methicillin-resistant *S. aureus*.
2. No role for imaging studies in the evaluation of a Bartholin mass.
3. No role for blood tests unless systemic infection is suspected.

#### Management can be by any of the following options

1. Marsupialization using a cruciate or longitudinal incision under 1% lignocaine. Stitch the edges using 3/0 vicryl to leave the incision open.
2. If available, consider
  - a. Incision and Drainage and insertion of WORD CATHETER for 4 weeks OR
  - b. Silver nitrate laser ablation and placement of a Jacobi ring catheter OR
  - c. Fractional CO<sub>2</sub> laser ablation with PRP (Platelet rich plasma).
3. In case of recurrence after marsupialization, consider gland excision

#### Additional supportive care includes

4. Antibiotics are not usually indicated in the immunocompetent patient after marsupialisation
5. If needed, give Flucamox (Flucloxacillin+Amoxycillin) 500mg 8hrly for five days, OR Ampiclox 500mg 6hrly for five days OR Azithromycin 500mg once a day for three days
6. Give analgesia.
7. Sitz bath using salty warm water (salty warm compress)
8. Abstain from vaginal intercourse until when fully healed.

**Note: Do not perform Incision and drainage alone** because the abscess will re-occur, unless if there is lack of expertise and there is urgent need to relieve symptoms. In which case, after I&D, pack with gauze and refer for **marsupialization**. **Gauze packing should be removed within 24-48 hours.**

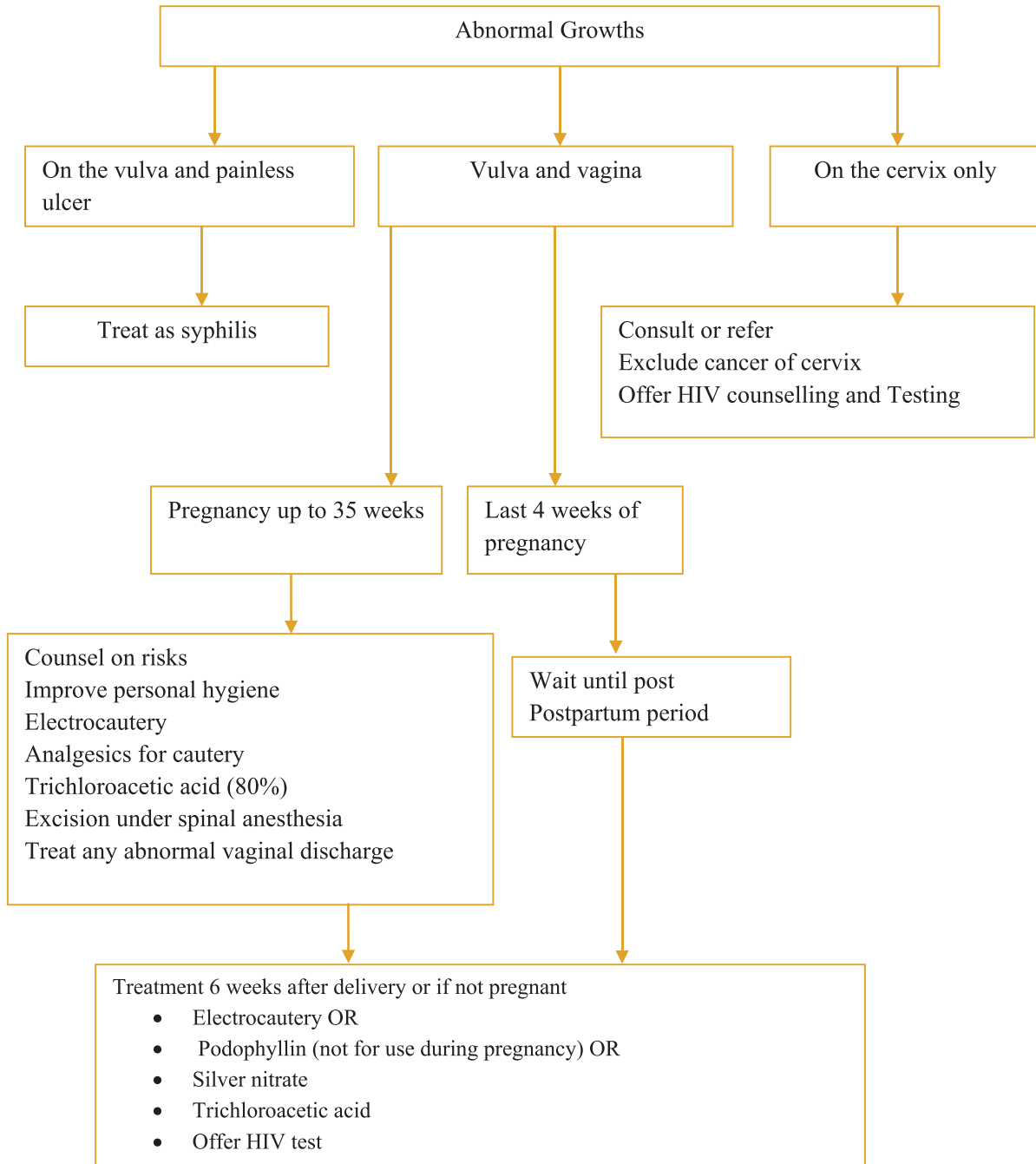
**Patients older than 40 years should have a biopsy to rule out Bartholin gland cancer.**

#### Follow up.

1. Notify and treat partner with similar treatment as above.
2. Counsel couple on HIV/AIDS/STI testing, prevention and encourage use of barrier methods.
3. Schedule return visit. If the abscess resolves no further management is required.
4. If the abscess recurs 2 or more times, gland excision is recommended.

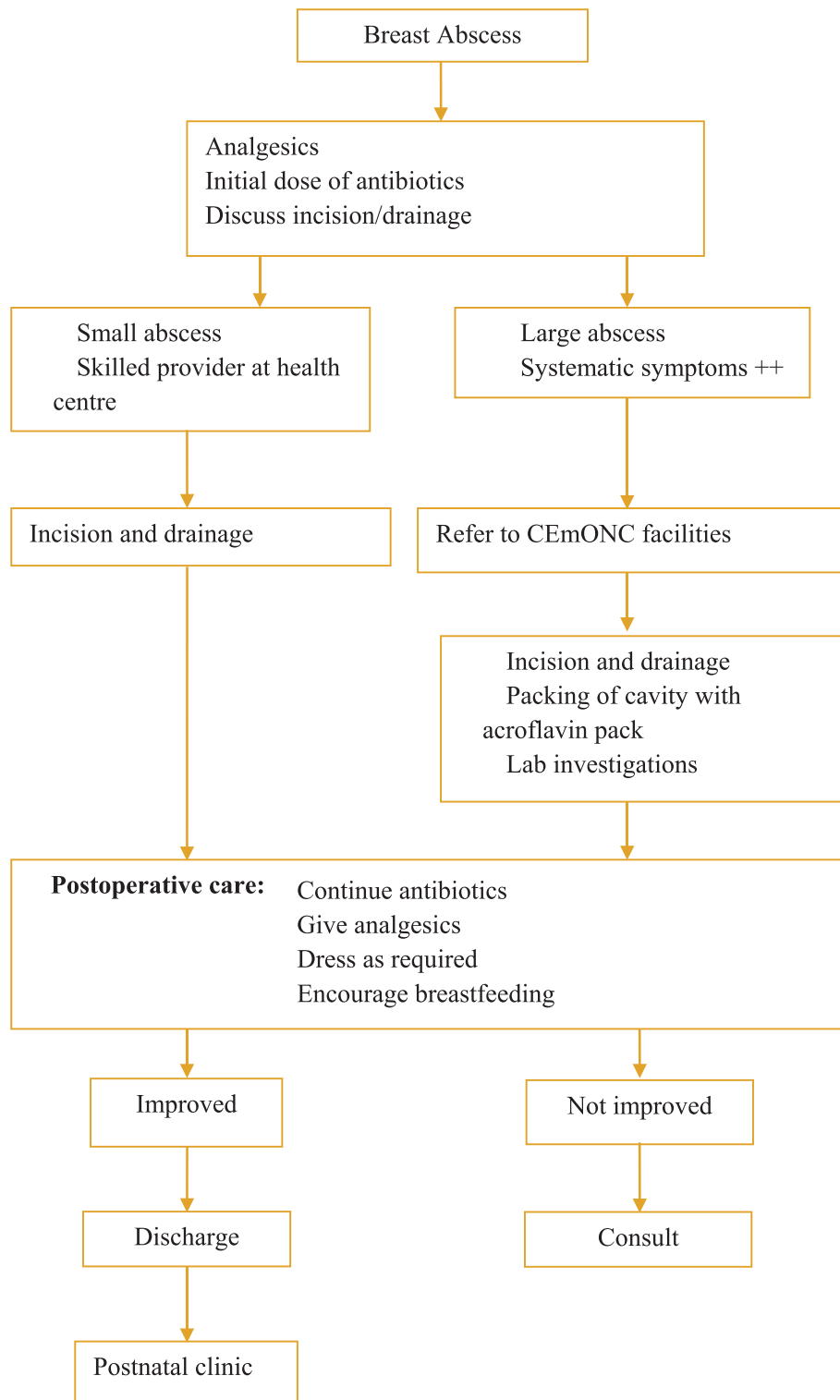


## Protocol 41: Genital Warts



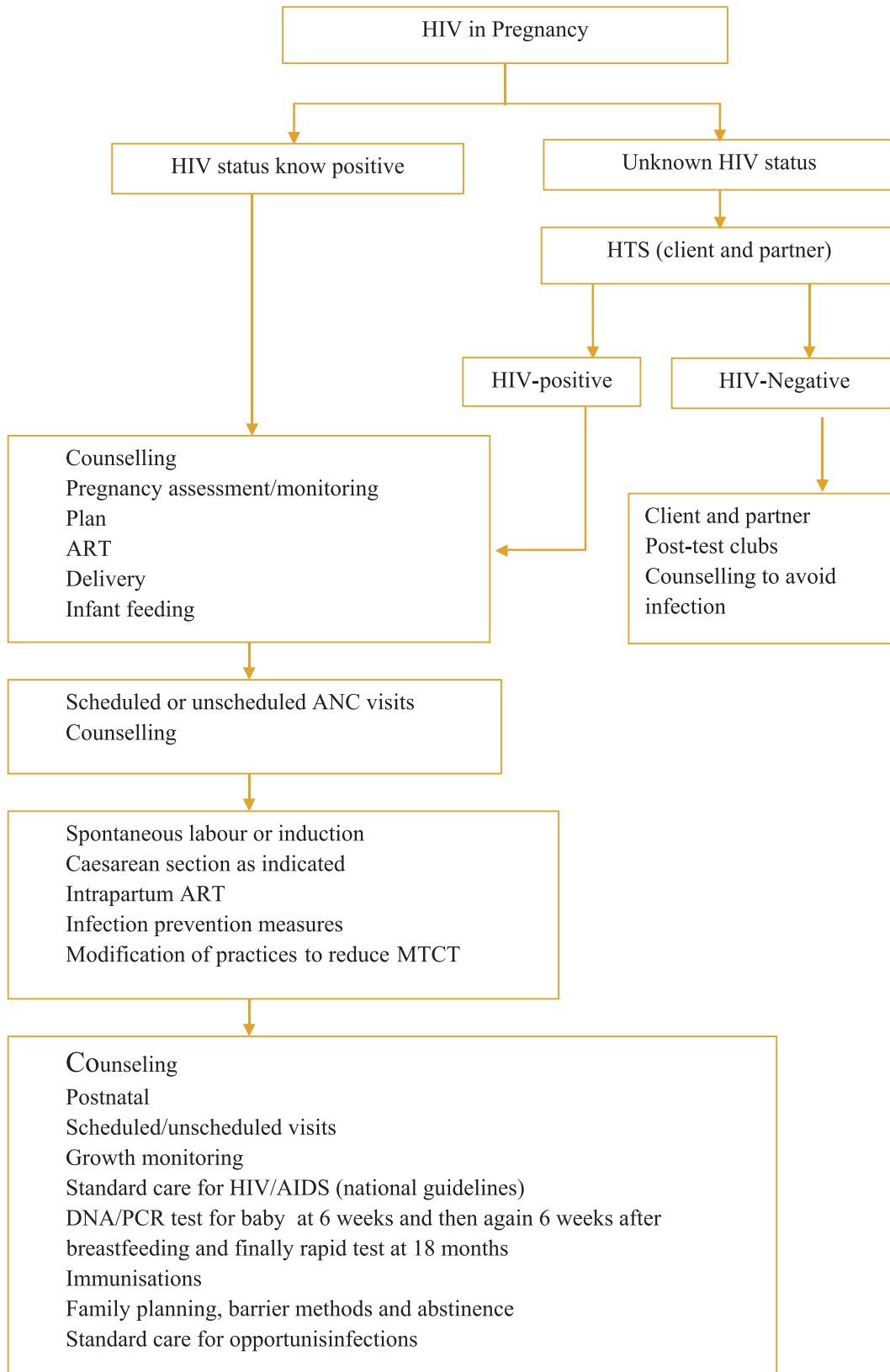


## Protocol 42: Management of breast abscess





## Protocol 43: Management of HIV in pregnancy





## Protocol 44: Intrapartum care for covid 19 in Pregnancy

### Pregnant woman admitted with Covid-19

Supportive management (In-patient Vs  
Out-Patient management individualized)

Suspend delivery till 39  
weeks of GA.  
Deliver if  $\geq$  39 weeks of  
GA

#### Admission in HDU if severe and ICU if critical

**Labs** (CBC, Electrolytes, RFTs, LFTs, Urinalysis, FBS, CRP, D-Dimers, ferritin, procalcitonin, serum troponin, creatinine phosphokinase)

**Imaging:** Obstetric Ultrasound scan (GA, EFW, AFI)

Start on Treatment

- Oxygen therapy (High Flow)
- IV antibiotics if indicated
- IV dexamethasone 6mg 12 hourly for 24 hours, then once a day for 10 days
- Prophylactic LMWH/Unfractionated heparin
- Other supportive drugs (Zinc, Vitamin D)
- Cautious IV fluid therapy (while evaluating for pulmonary oedema)

#### Less than 28 weeks of Gestation

Intermittent auscultation of the fetal  
heart sound twice a day  
Perimortem / resuscitative hysterotomy  
(26 to 28 weeks) can be done

#### 28 weeks to 34 weeks of Gestation

Daily Non-Stress Test (NST)

Delivery indicated for;

- Refractory maternal deterioration in status
- Non reassuring fetal heart rate pattern
- Refractory maternal hypoxemia
- Rapid escalation in oxygen requirements
- Requires advanced oxygen delivery method (mechanical ventilation with PEEP  $\geq$  10cm H<sub>2</sub>O or VV ECMO)

#### Above 34 weeks of Gestation

Consider delivery if any sustained  
deterioration in maternal pulmonary  
status

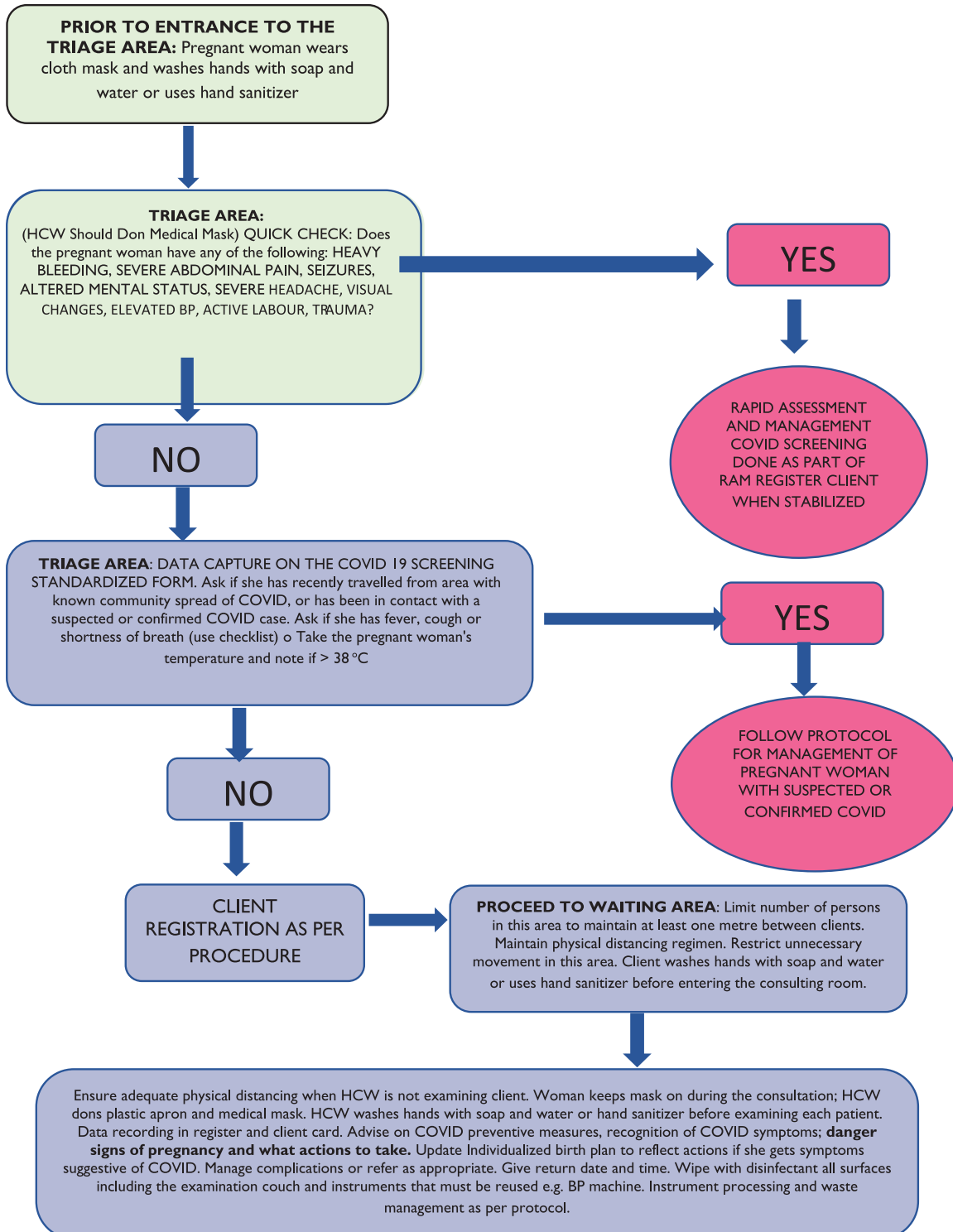
**NOTE:** Induction of labour maybe  
considered if the patient is  
hemodynamically stable



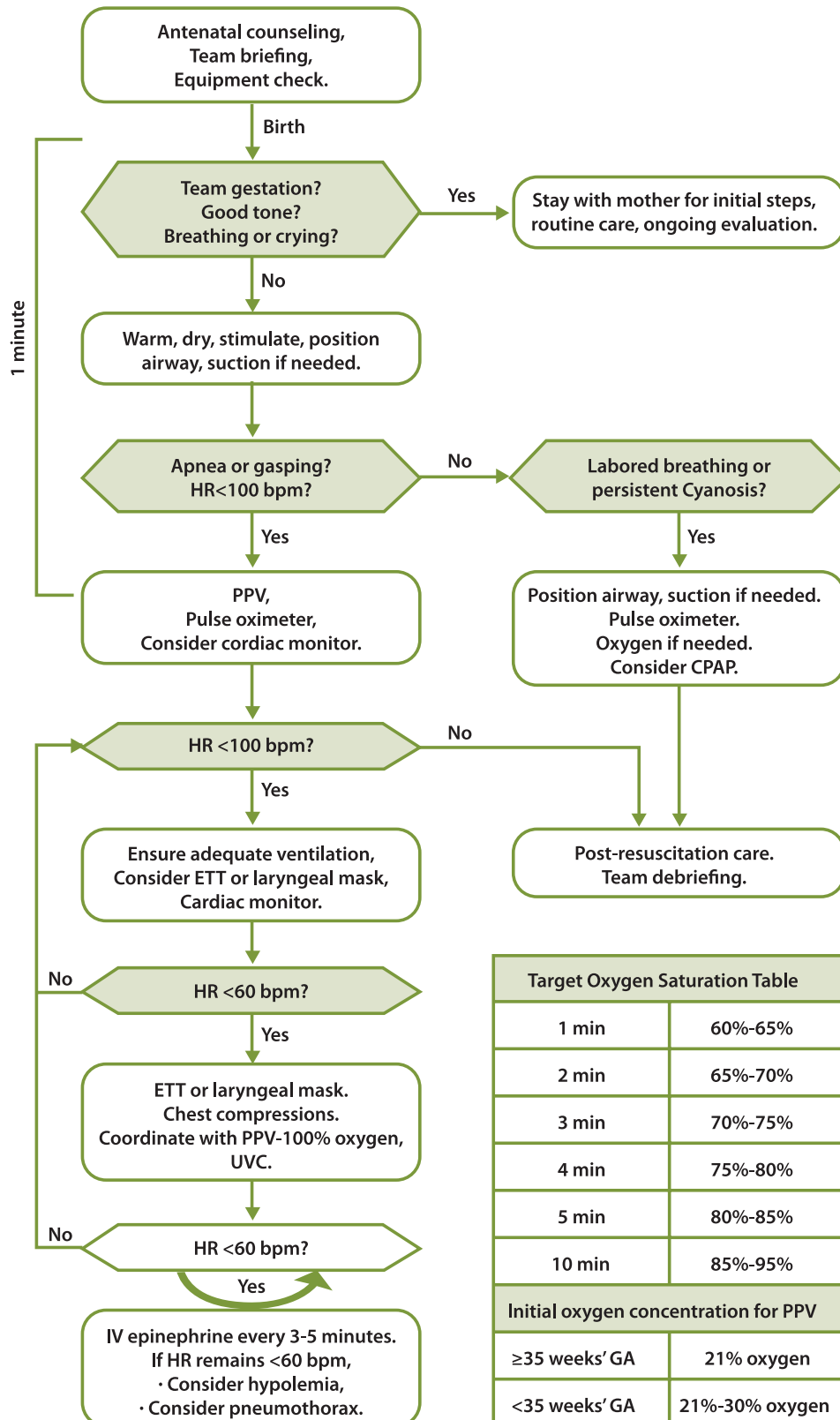


## Protocol 45: Antenatal care for covid 19 in Pregnancy

### ANNEX II: Antenatal care for asymptomatic pregnant women or those with unknown COVID-19 status



## Protocol 46: Neonatal Resuscitation



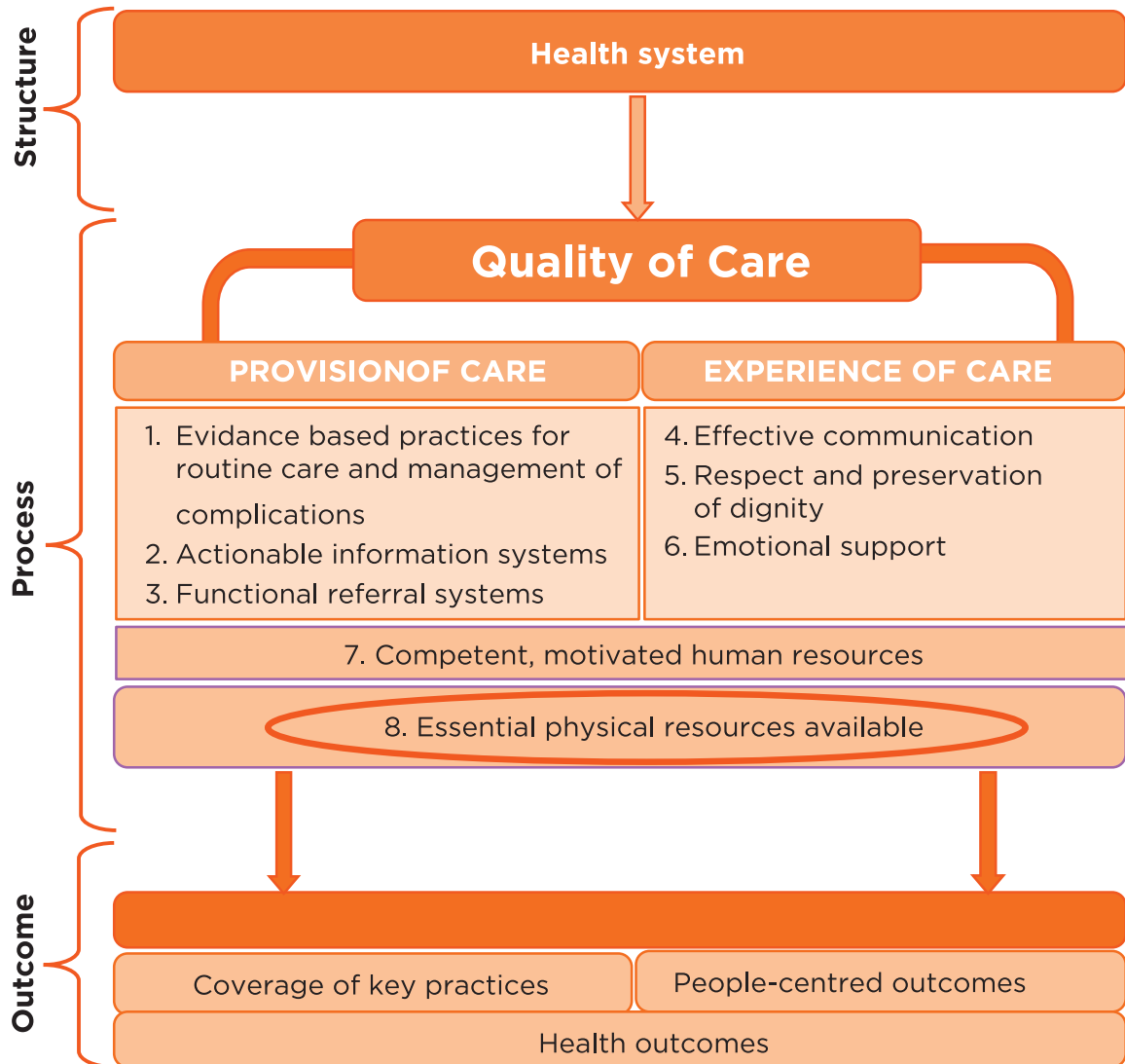


## Protocol 47: Process of community diagnosis



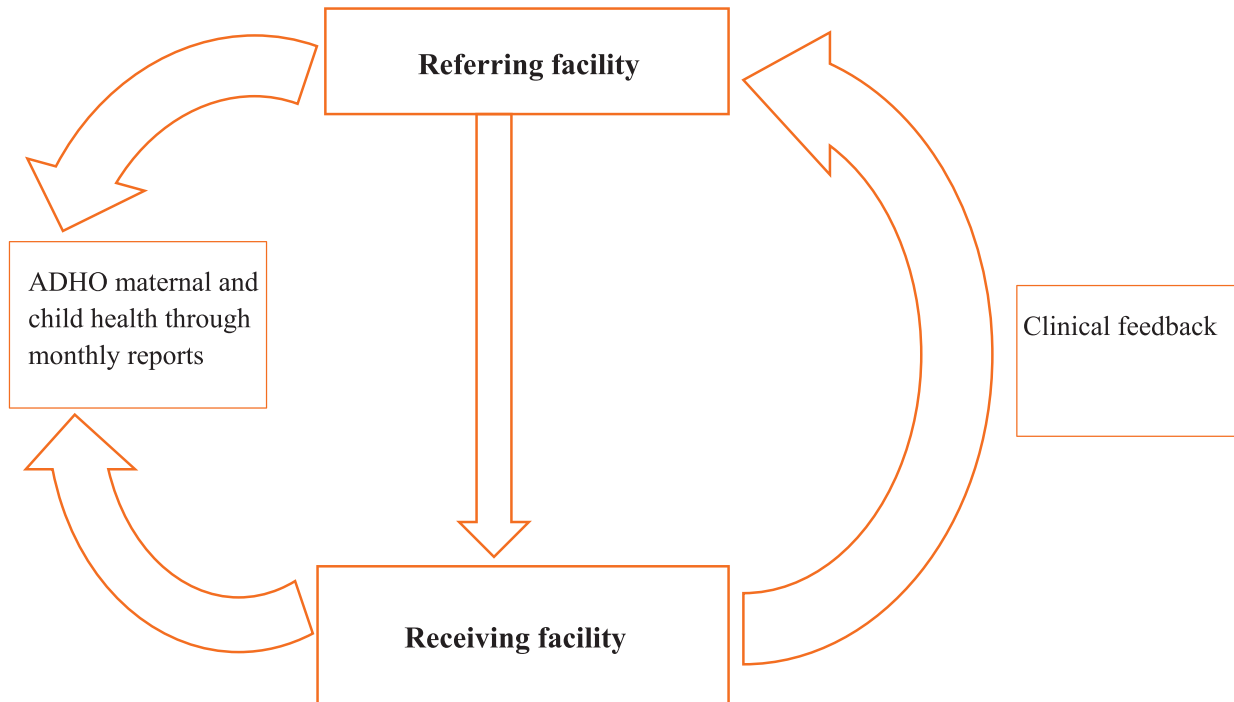


## Protocol 48: WHO Framework for the quality of maternal and newborn care



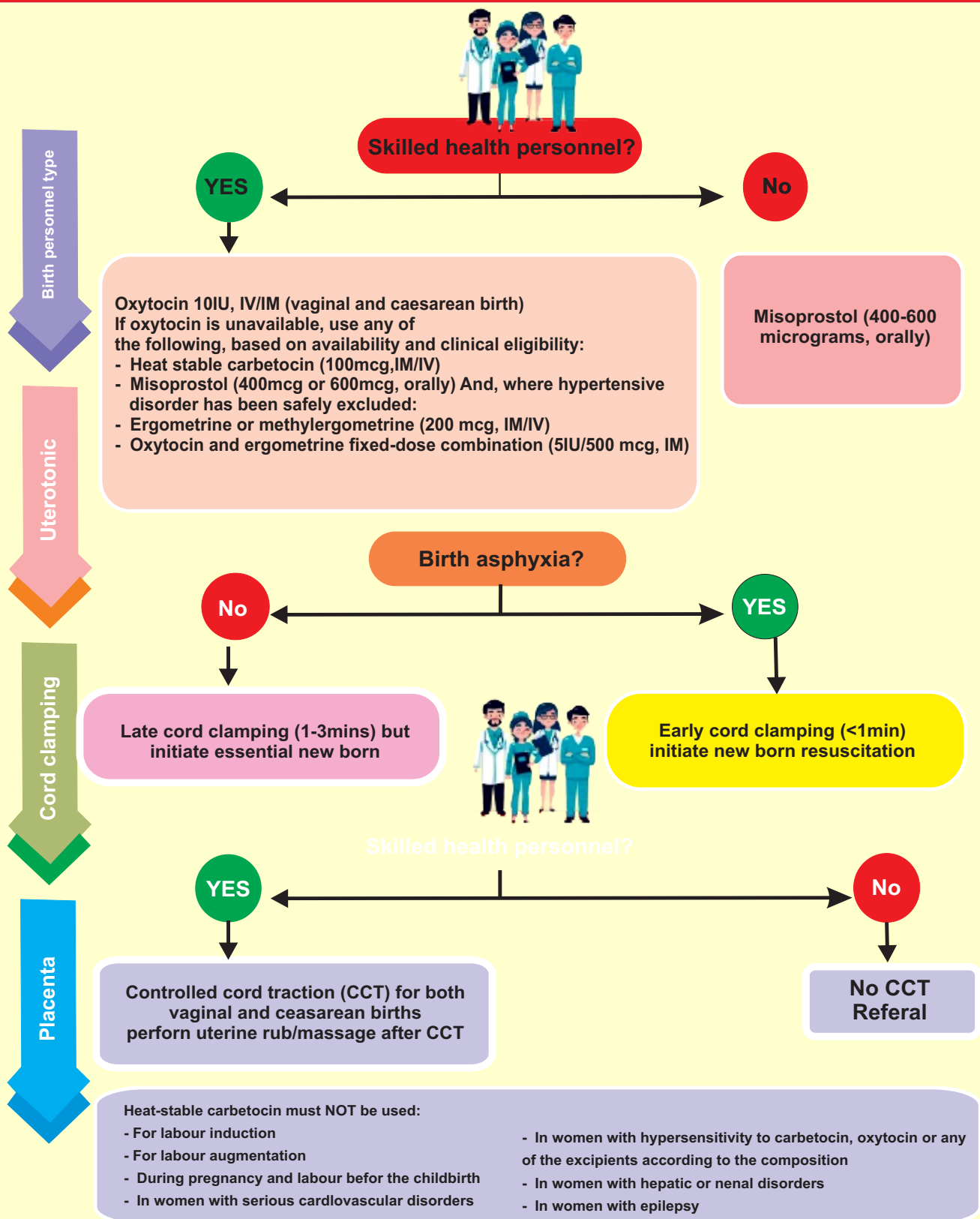


## Protocol 49: The referral pathway

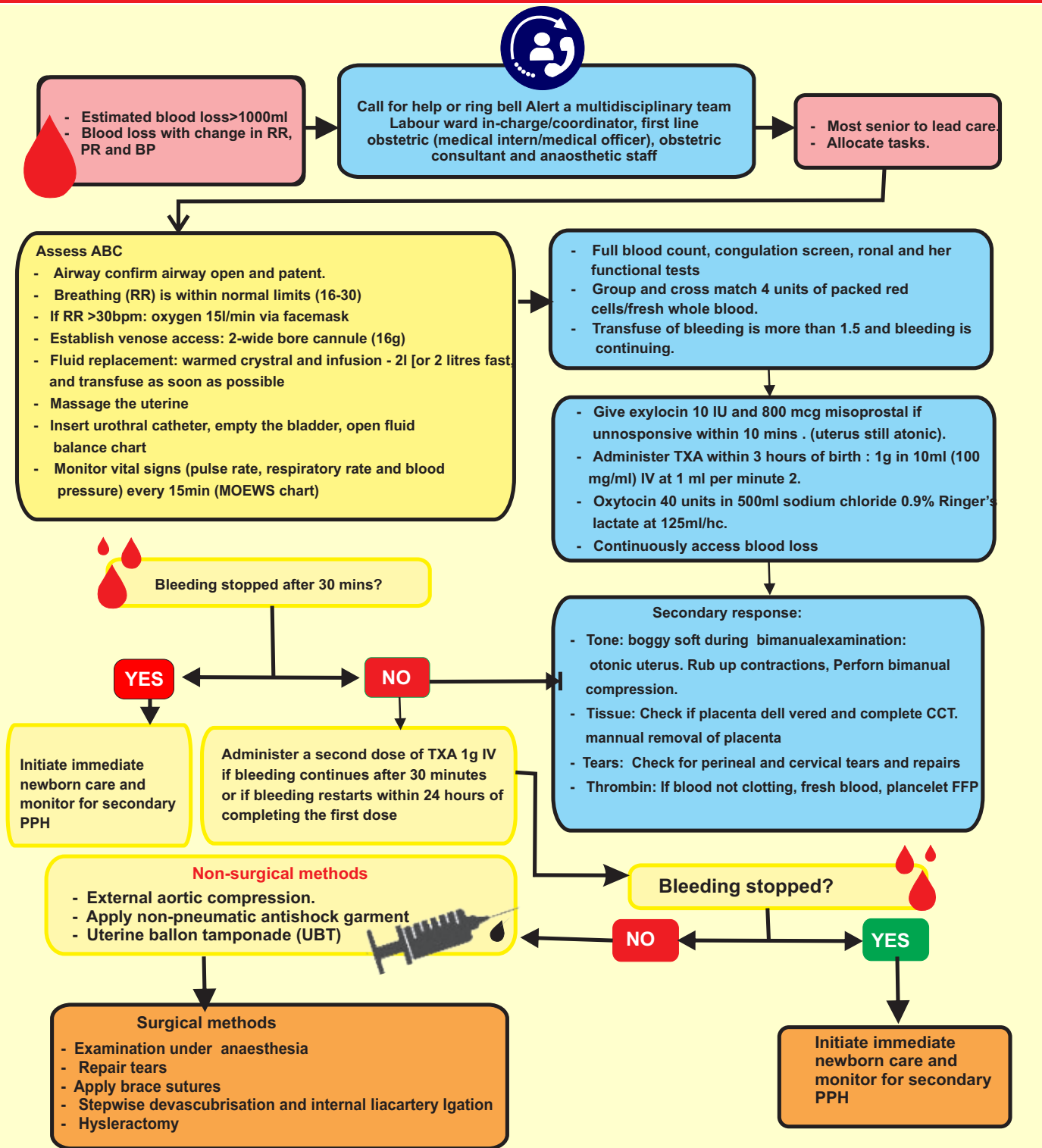


# PPH Prevention

## 3rd stage of labour: After delivery of baby



# FLOW CHART FOR MAJOR PPH TREATMENT AT CEMONG FACILITY



<sup>1</sup> IV oxytocin peak onset of action is immediate and peak concentration after 30minutes while 1M oxytocin onset of action is 3-7 minutes and duration of action os up to 1 hour  
<sup>2</sup> TXA should be administered IV ONLY. Avoid TXA in women with clear contraindication to antifibrinolytic therapy as a know thrombitic event during pregnancy  
<sup>3</sup> Involve experienced surgeons with vascular expertise.  
<sup>4</sup> Resort to sub-total hysterectomy sooner rather than later.  
<sup>5</sup> Have a copy of BLYNCH suture on display in the operation theatre.  
<sup>6</sup> The woman should remain in the delivery suite for 24 hours after major PPH has been resolved, or after transfer from ICU or ITU.



# MANAGEMENT OF SECONDARY POSTPARTUM HEAMORRHAGE

Secondary postpartum haemorrhage is defined as excessive vaginal bleeding in the period from 24 hours after delivery to six weeks postpartum.

Assess condition for stability

- Haemodynamically unstable**
1. Set up IV fluids with large bore cannula
  2. Give oxytocin 10 IU or misoprostol 800 mcg sublingual
  3. Tranexamic acid 1gm IV in 10 mins
  4. CBC, blood grouping & cross match, coagulation profile
  5. Transfuse with blood where indicated,
  6. Antibiotics

Still unstable

- Transfer to comprehensive emergency obstetric care facility
- Check for GTD (quantitative serum hcg)
- Transfuse with blood if several anaemic

Explore uterus under appropriate anaesthesia if bleeding continues

Vaginal tear/Reptured uterus suspected, poorly repaired CS incision

Achieve hemostasis  
Exploratory laparotomy +/- postpartum hysterectomy

Improved and stable

- Stab;e**
1. Investigation e.g CBC,
  2. Antibiotics
  3. Perform U/S

Retained product of conception

YES

NO

Retained products of conception

Digital and MVA or sponge holding forceps and blunt curettage

Bleeding persists

Note: If bleeding persist think of trophoblastic dx (GTD)









**Ministry of Health**  
Plot 6 Lourdel Road, Wandegaya  
P. O. Box 7272, Kampala, Uganda

