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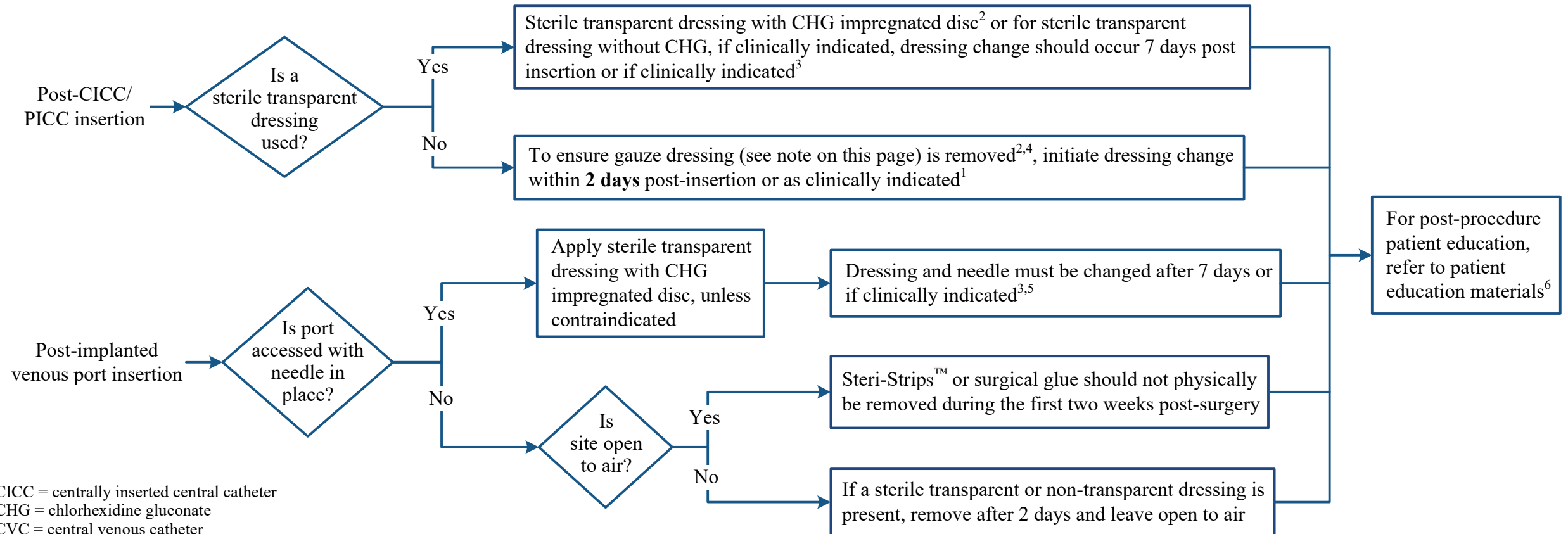
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Note: Gauze dressing is any non-transparent dressing without CHG impregnated disc or gauze and tape.

CVAD POST INSERTION DRESSING CARE¹

MANAGEMENT



CICC = centrally inserted central catheter
CHG = chlorhexidine gluconate
CVC = central venous catheter
PICC = peripherally inserted central catheter

¹ Refer to Infection Control Associated with Vascular Access Devices (VADs) Policy (#CLN0441)

² Best practice indicates that gauze should only be used when clinically appropriate; sterile transparent dressing with CHG impregnated disc is recommended post-insertion

³ Immediate dressing change is required when dressing becomes damp, loosened, or soiled. Refer to VAD Maintenance Care: Dressing Care on [Page 3](#).

⁴ If unable to determine if gauze was placed under a non-transparent dressing, initiate VAD Maintenance Care: Dressing Care within 2 days post-insertion or as clinically indicated (see [Page 3](#))

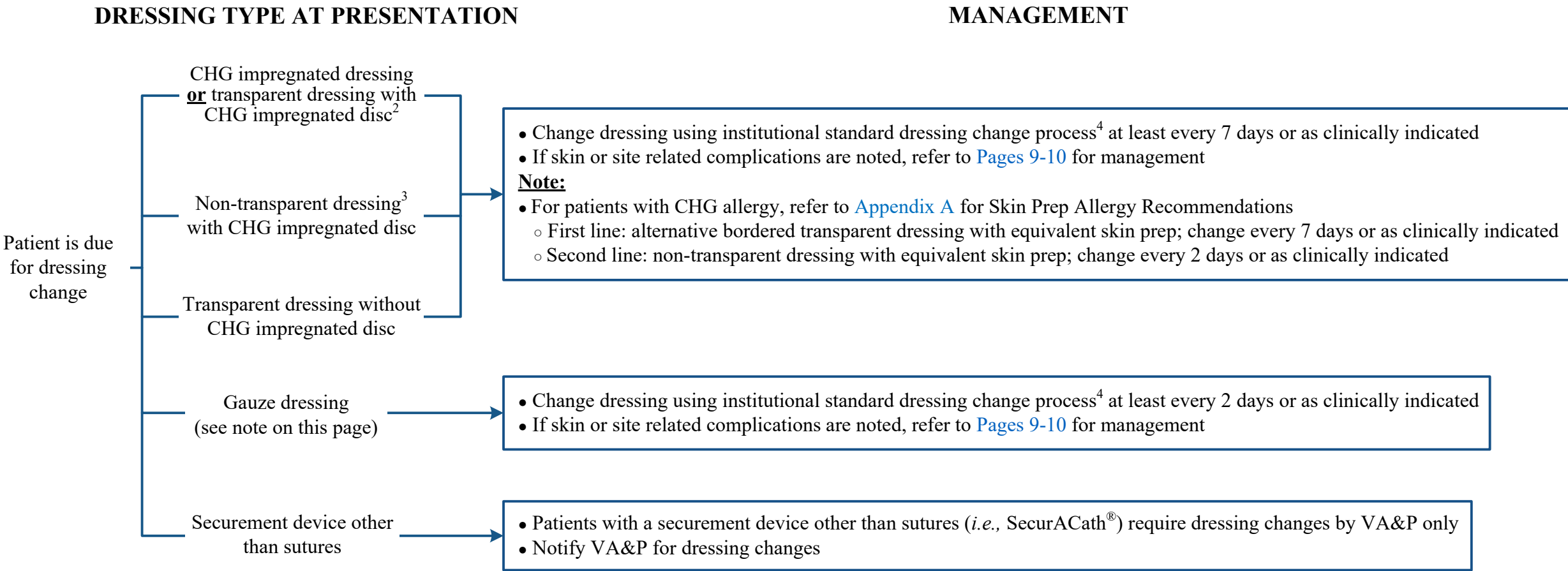
⁵ Needle change is only required if port has been accessed > 7 days

⁶ See [Central Line \(CVC/PICC\) Patient Education](#)

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Note: Gauze dressing is any non-transparent dressing without CHG impregnated disc or gauze and tape.

VAD MAINTENANCE CARE: DRESSING CARE¹

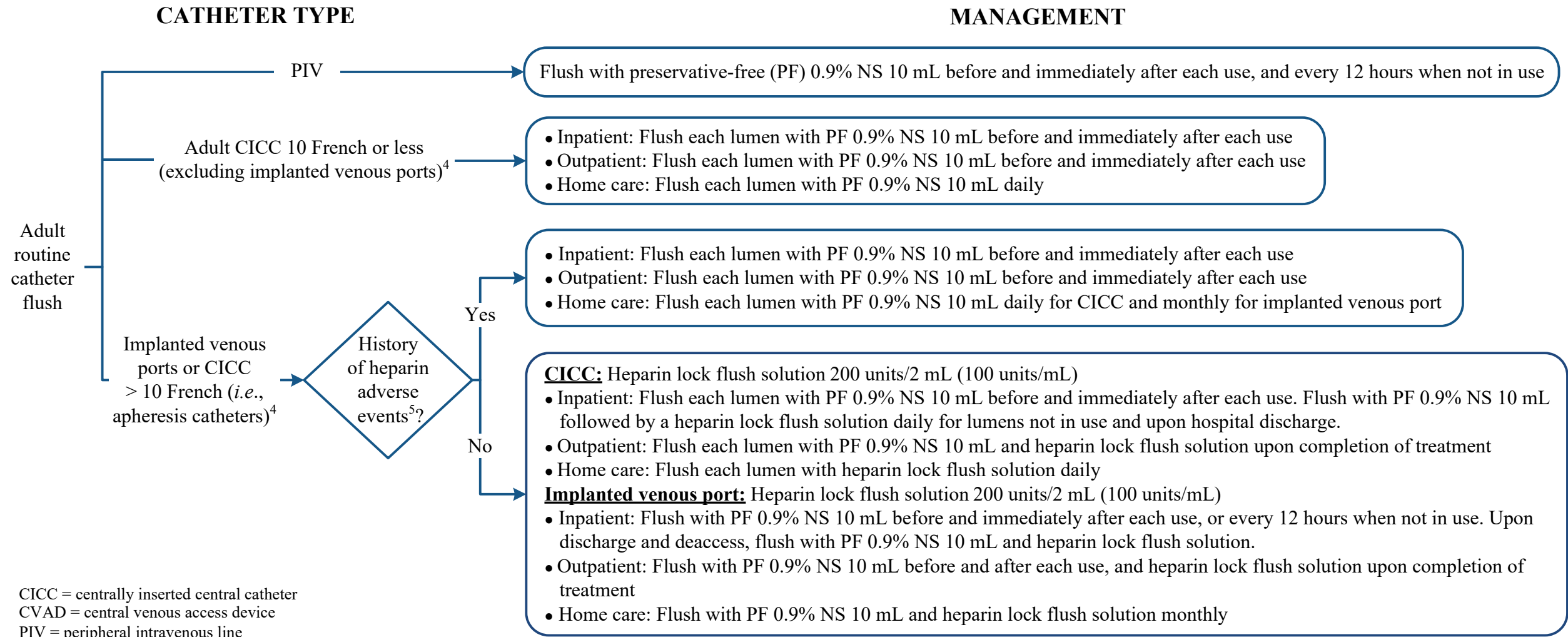


CHG = chlorhexidine gluconate
VA&P = Vascular Access & Procedures

¹ Refer to Infection Control Associated with Vascular Access Devices (VADs) Policy (#CLN0441)
² Institutional standard; considered best practice and recommended as dressing of choice for standard of care
³ Avoid non-transparent dressing in patients with implanted ports, receiving vesicants, or inability to verbalize pain or discomfort. For patients receiving a vesicant, see [Extravasation Management \(Vesicant and Contrast Agents\) algorithm](#) and Vascular Vesicant/Irritant Administration and Extravasation Policy (#CLN0986)
⁴ Immediate dressing change is required when dressing becomes damp, loosened, or soiled (*i.e.*, dressing corners are lifted to the extent that allows access to the insertion site, or exposure of catheter wings)

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VAD MAINTENANCE CARE: FLUSH MANAGEMENT - ADULT^{1,2,3}

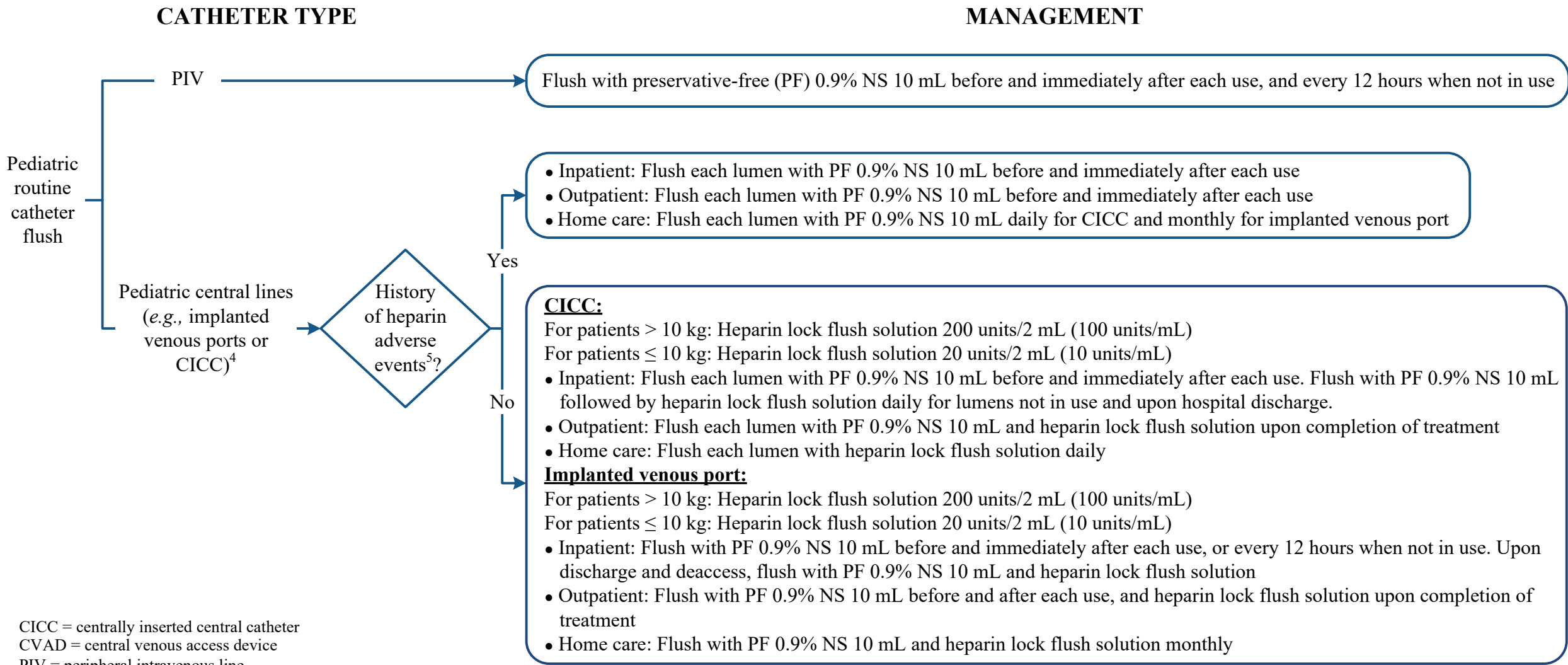


CICC = centrally inserted central catheter
CVAD = central venous access device
PIV = peripheral intravenous line

¹ Refer to Infection Control Associated with Vascular Access Devices (VADs) Policy (#CLN0441)
² For flushing/locking arterial catheters, dialysis catheters, or implanted peritoneal ports, follow specific institutional orders as directed by physician
³ All CVADs must remain clamped when not in use with the exception of the Hickman/Groshong catheter
⁴ Refer to the Vascular Access Management Therapy Plan or if indicated, to the Nursing Heparin Catheter Lock Protocol: Central Venous Access Device Patency Management (#ATT3306) and Nursing Flush Protocol: Venous Access Device Flush Management (#ATT3308)
⁵ If heparin is not available/shortage, follow the steps for heparin allergy

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VAD MAINTENANCE CARE: FLUSH MANAGEMENT - PEDIATRIC^{1,2,3}



CICC = centrally inserted central catheter
CVAD = central venous access device
PIV = peripheral intravenous line

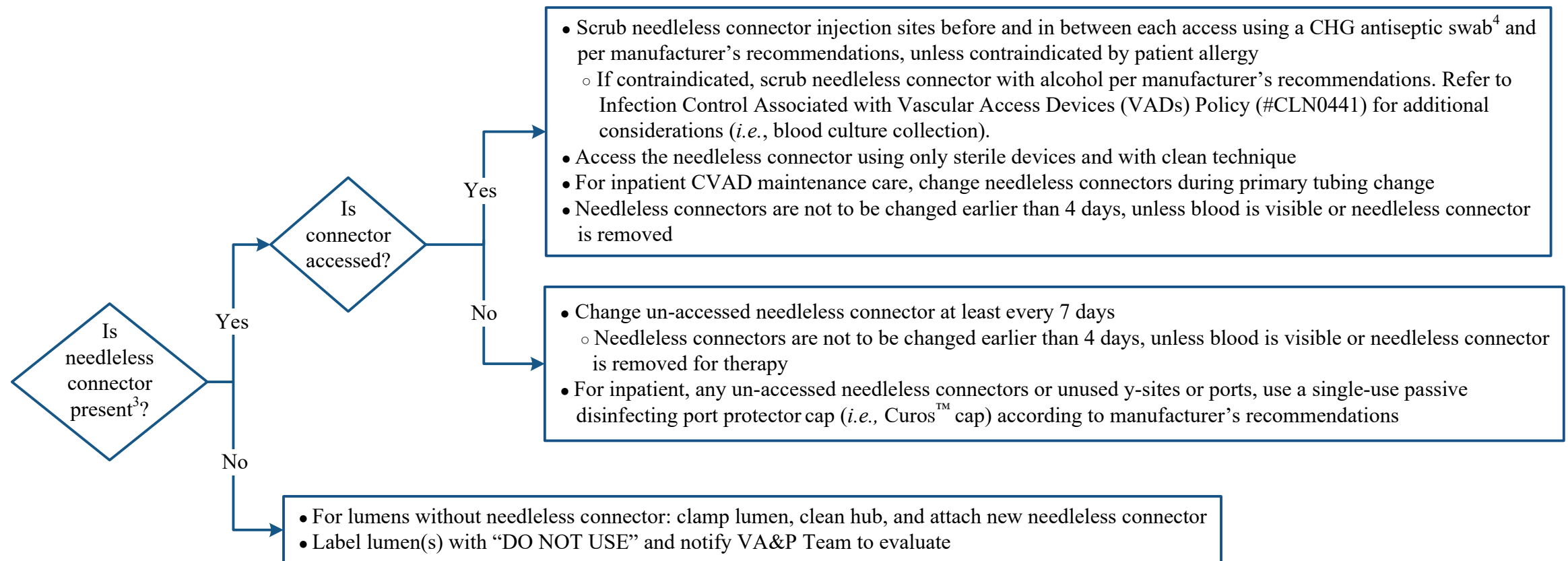
¹ Refer to Infection Control Associated with Vascular Access Devices (VADs) Policy (#CLN0441)
² For flushing/locking arterial catheters, dialysis catheters, or implanted peritoneal ports, follow specific institutional orders as directed by physician
³ All CVADs must remain clamped when not in use with the exception of the Hickman/Groshong catheter
⁴ Refer to the Vascular Access Management Therapy Plan or if indicated, to the Nursing Heparin Catheter Lock Protocol: Central Venous Access Device Patency Management (#ATT3306)
⁵ If heparin is not available/shortage, follow the steps for heparin allergy

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VAD MAINTENANCE CARE: NEEDLELESS CONNECTOR MANAGEMENT^{1,2}

EVALUATION

MANAGEMENT



CHG = chlorhexidine gluconate
CVAD = central venous access device
VA&P = Vascular Access & Procedures

¹ Refer to Infection Control Associated with Vascular Access Devices (VADs) Policy (#CLN0441)

² All CVADs must remain clamped when not in use with the exception of the Hickman/Groshong catheter

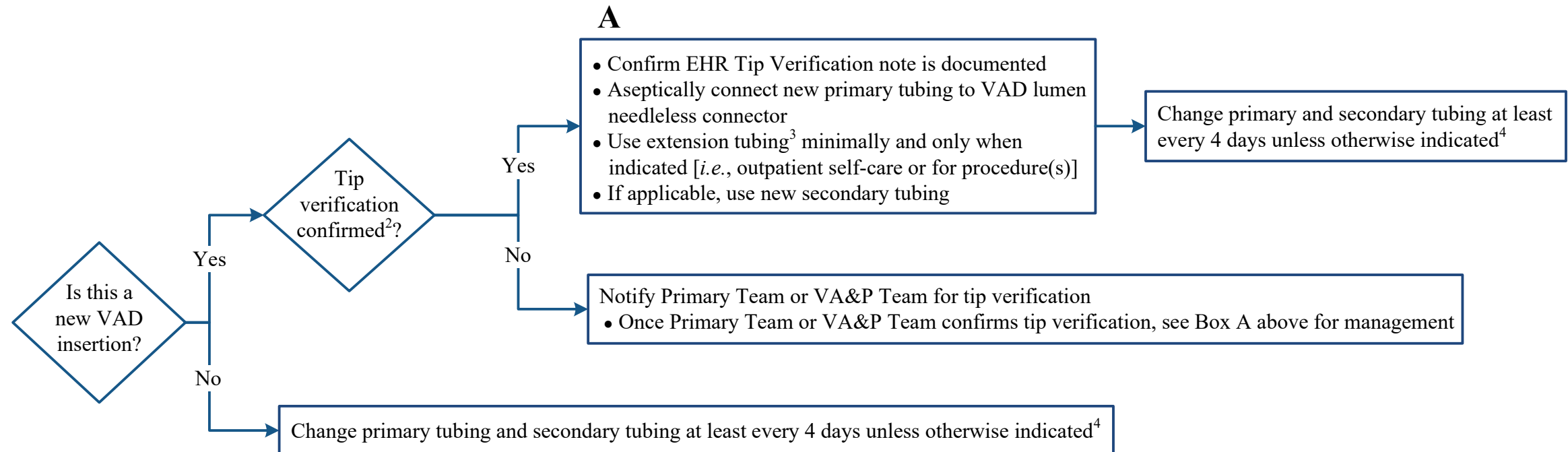
³ A neutral needleless connector should be used with all vascular access devices

⁴ CHG antiseptic swab is comprised of > 0.5% chlorhexidine gluconate and 70% isopropyl alcohol

VAD MAINTENANCE CARE: TUBING MANAGEMENT¹

EVALUATION

MANAGEMENT



CVAD = central venous access device
VA&P = Vascular Access & Procedures

¹ Refer to Infection Control Associated with Vascular Access Devices (VADs) Policy (#CLN0441)

² Tip of the CVAD is in satisfactory position when the tip resides in the superior vena cava or upper right atrium. See Central Vascular Access Device (CVAD) Assessment and Tip Position Verification Policy (#CLN1036).

³ Change extension tubing in the inpatient setting every 4 days during manifold change when in use. In the outpatient setting, or when not in use, change within 7 days. Change if blood is noted in the tubing or in the needleless connector.

⁴ Change tubing:

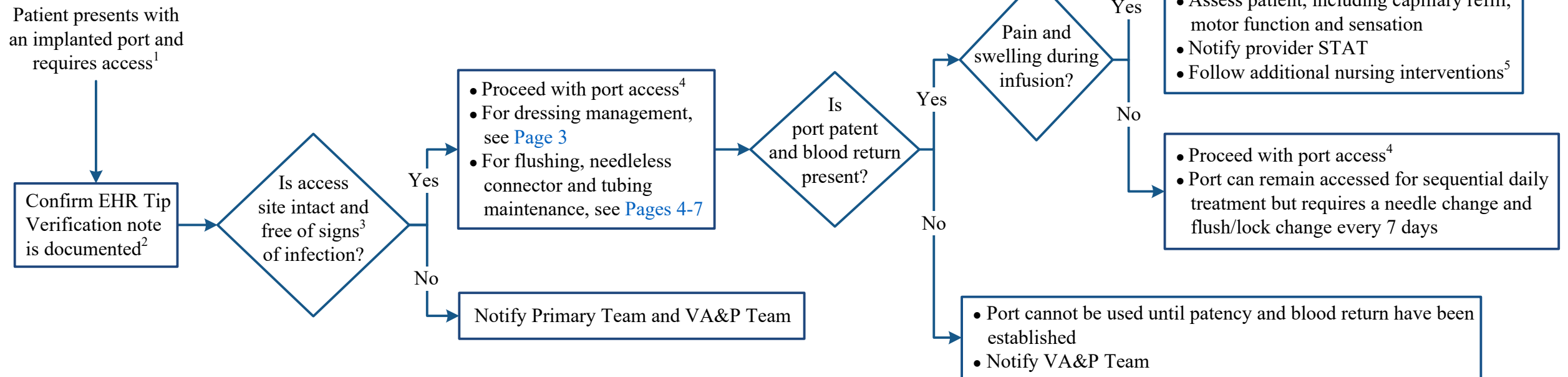
- Every 24 hours if used for intermittent infusions when directly connected to VAD lumen
- Every 24 hours if used for blood products, total parenteral nutrition (TPN), or lipid emulsions
- Every 6-12 hours if used for propofol (dependent on indication and per manufacturer's recommendation)
- Every 3 days if used for interleukin-2

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IMPLANTED VENOUS PORT: ACCESS AND MANAGEMENT

PRESENTATION

MANAGEMENT



VA&P = Vascular Access & Procedures

¹ Manage, access, and de-access implanted ports as clinically indicated. Refer to Peripherally Inserted Central Catheter, Implanted Venous Port, Midline (Peripheral) Catheters, and Peripheral Intravenous Vascular Access Devices: Nursing Policy (#CLN3484)

² Refer to Central Vascular Access Device (CVAD) Assessment and Tip Position Verification Policy (#CLN1036). If no note documented, consult Primary Team or VA&P Team for confirm and document Tip Verification.

³ Pain, swelling, tenderness, and redness

⁴ Needle selection based on:

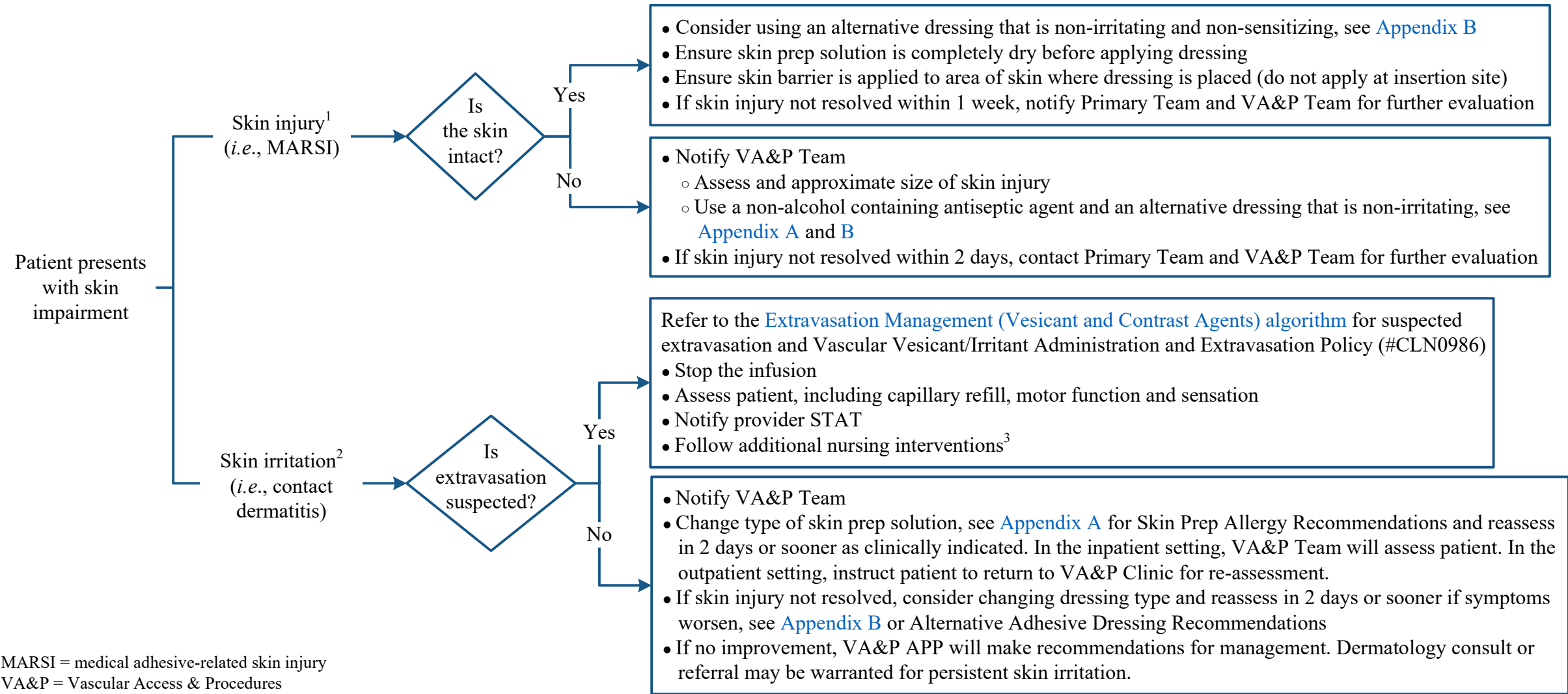
- Appropriate gauge for therapy or testing (*i.e.*, 20 gauge is considered standard of care; some diagnostic imaging studies require a 19 gauge needle)
- Appropriate length based on reservoir palpation (*i.e.*, 3/4 inch, 1 inch, 1 ¼ inch, 1 ½ inch)
- Appropriate needle type: access power injectable ports with power rated needles

⁵ **SLAPP** – Stop infusion. Do not flush. Leave IV in place. Assess and aspirate with 1-3 mL syringe (document description and volume aspirated). Pull IV/implanted port needle. Provider notification.

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VAD COMPLICATIONS: SKIN IMPAIRMENT
PRESENTATION

MANAGEMENT



MARSI = medical adhesive-related skin injury
VA&P = Vascular Access & Procedures

¹ Presence of skin tears, blistering, irregular shiny skin, appearance or lesions lasting > 30 minutes

² Redness, burning, presence of lesions, and/or pruritis

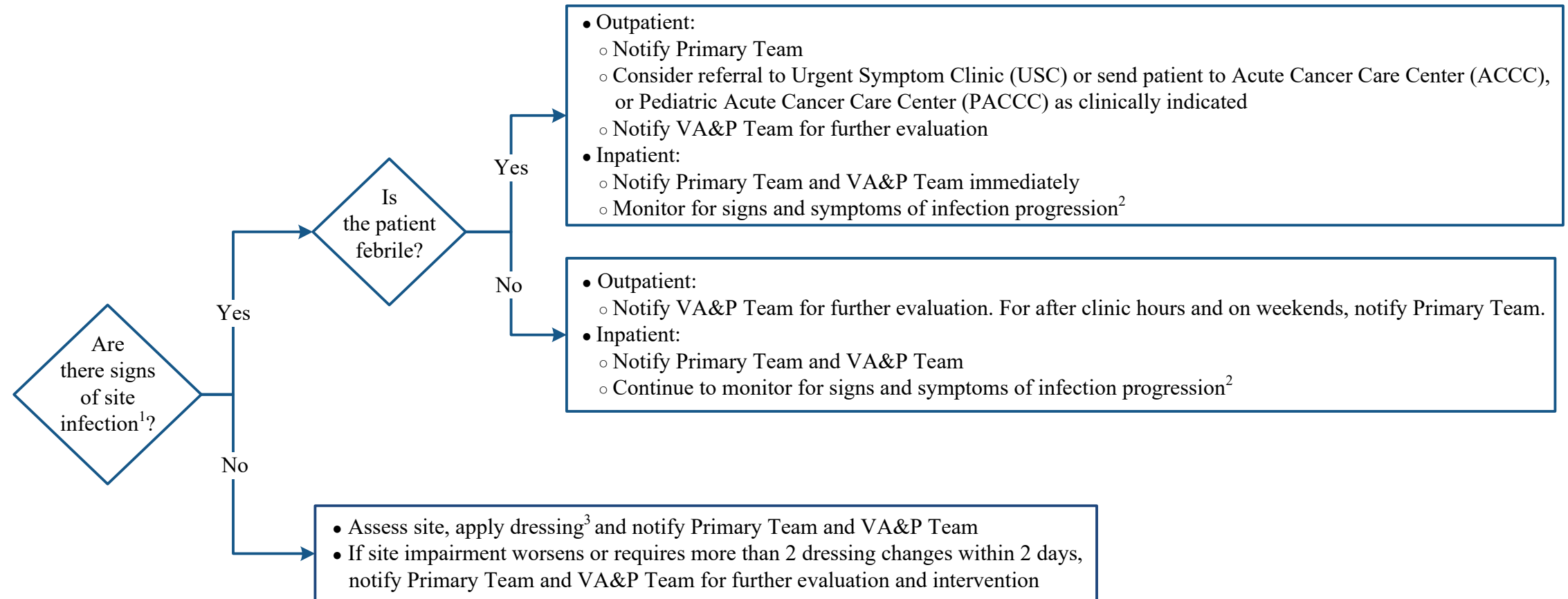
³ **SLAPP** – Stop infusion. Do not flush. Leave IV in place. Assess and aspirate with 1-3 mL syringe (document description and volume aspirated). Pull IV/implanted port needle. Provider notification.

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VAD COMPLICATIONS: SITE COMPLICATION/INFECTION

EVALUATION

MANAGEMENT



VA&P = Vascular Access & Procedures

¹ Redness, warmth, induration, and/or purulent drainage

² Refer to Infection Control Associated with Vascular Access Devices (VADs) Policy (#CLN0441)

³ Follow VAD Maintenance Care: Dressing Care on [Page 3](#)

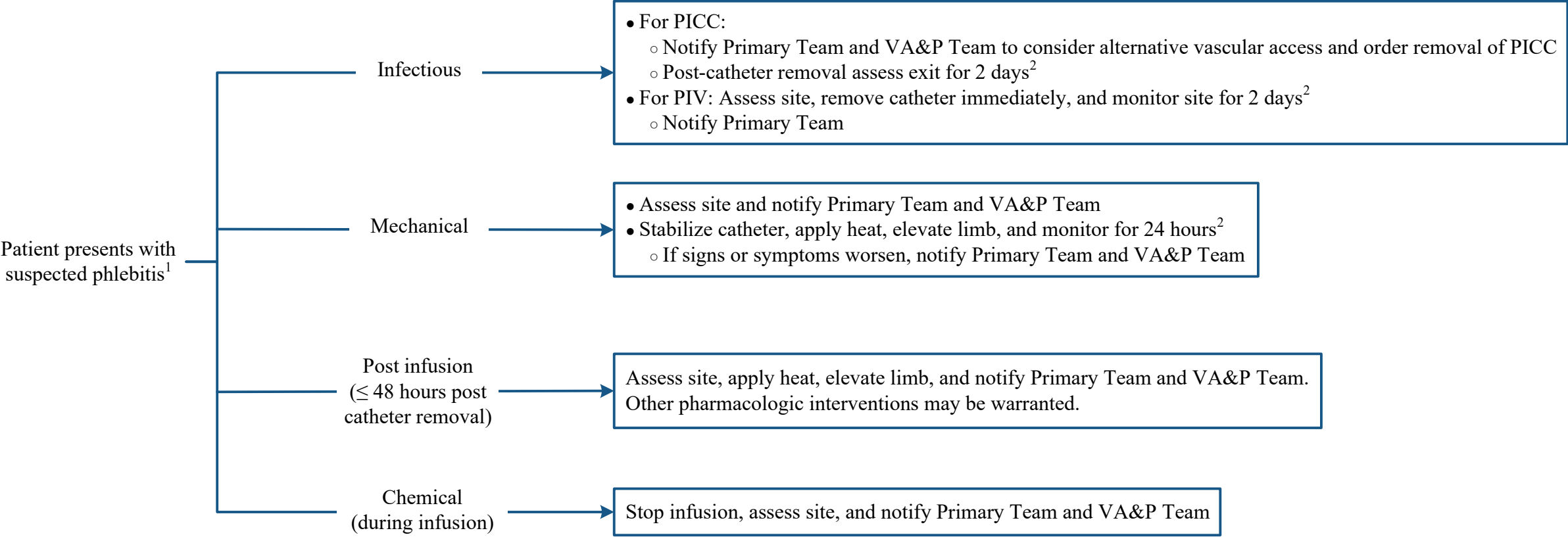
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VAD COMPLICATIONS: PHLEBITIS

PRESENTATION

POTENTIAL CAUSE(S)

EVALUATION/MANAGEMENT



VA&P = Vascular Access & Procedures
PICC = peripherally inserted central catheter
PIV = peripheral intravenous line

¹ Refer to The Visual Infusion Phlebitis Scale (see [Appendix C](#))

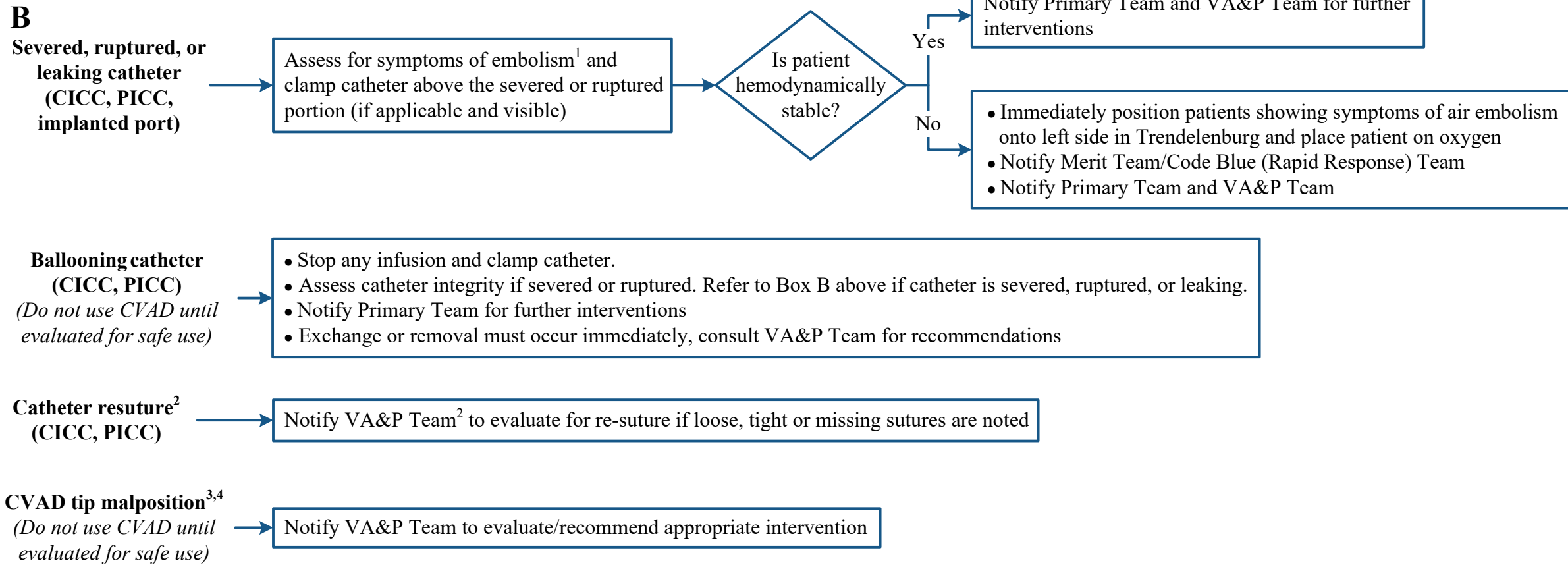
² For inpatient: assess and document every shift
For outpatient: assess and document once daily

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VAD COMPLICATIONS: CVAD DEVICE-RELATED

FINDINGS

MANAGEMENT



CICC = centrally inserted central catheter
CVAD = central venous access device
PICC = peripherally inserted central catheter
VA&P = Vascular Access & Procedures

¹ Catheter embolism symptoms: changes in blood pressure, arrhythmias, cough, shortness of breath, chest pain, or weak pulse
² Catheter re-suture may be performed by specially trained provider
³ Tip of the CVAD is in satisfactory position when the tip resides in the superior vena cava or upper right atrium. Refer to Central Vascular Access Device (CVAD) Assessment and Tip Position Verification Policy (#CLN1036).
⁴ Obtain new chest x-ray if malposition is > 30 days from insertion confirmation x-ray

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APPENDIX A: Skin Prep Allergy Recommendations

- Allergy to CHG:
 - Intact skin: Use 70% isopropyl alcohol¹ followed by povidone-iodine² or a combination of alcohol and iodine solution³
 - Non-intact skin: Use povidone-iodine² only
- Allergy to alcohol:
 - Use a non-alcohol containing CHG prep solution if available or povidone-iodine²
 - If CHG allergy, use povidone-iodine² only
- Allergy to povidone-iodine and CHG:
 - Use iodine povacrylex and isopropyl alcohol **or**
 - Use 70% isopropyl alcohol¹
 - Do not use CHG impregnated dressing or disc
- Allergy to all skin prep dilutions (CHG, povidone-iodine, and alcohol):
 - Use sterile saline⁴
 - Do not use CHG impregnated dressing or disc

CHG = chlorhexidine gluconate

¹ Scrub site using friction with isopropyl alcohol for a total of 60 second, and allow to dry

² Scrub site with povidone-iodine (Dura-Prep[™]) for a total of 60 seconds or per manufacturer's recommendations, and allow to dry for 2 minutes

³ Refer to manufacturer's recommendations

⁴ High risk for infection related to sterile saline use

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APPENDIX B: Alternative Adhesive Dressing Recommendations¹

Dressing	Skin Injury	Skin Irritant	Other Considerations	Dressing Change Frequency
SorbaView® SHIELD Dressing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Skin Intact: 1st choice dressing• Non-Intact Skin: Contact VA&P Team for usage	1 st choice dressing	1 st choice dressing for patients that are diaphoretic and are unable to tolerate Tegaderm™ with CHG	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Every 7 days with or without presence of Biopatch®• Every 2 days if gauze is present over insertion site with or without presence of Biopatch®
Covaderm Plus® Vascular Access Dressing ¹	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Skin Intact: Contact VA&P Team for usage• Non-Intact Skin: Contact VA&P Team for usage	3 rd choice dressing	1 st choice dressing if patient requires pressure dressing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If used as pressure dressing: change every 2 days with or without presence of Biopatch®• If used due to patient irritant: change every 7 days if Biopatch® is present
Allevyn dressing ¹	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Skin Intact: 2nd Choice dressing (preferred when patient diaphoretic)• Non-Intact Skin: 1st choice dressing (preferred when patient diaphoretic)	2 rd choice dressing	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Every 7 days with presence of Biopatch®• Every 2 days if no Biopatch® is present
Mepilex® Border Dressing ¹	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Skin Intact: 2nd choice dressing• Skin Non-Intact: 1st choice dressing	2 rd choice dressing	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Every 7 days with presence of Biopatch®• Every 2 days if no Biopatch® is present.
DuoDERM® Extra Thin Dressing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Skin Intact: Not recommended, contact VA&P Team• Non-Intact Skin: Not recommended, contact VA&P Team	4 th choice dressing	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Every 7 days with presence of Biopatch®• Every 2 days if no Biopatch® is present (gauze must be placed over insertion site)
Kerlix™ Gauze Dressing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Skin Intact: Contact VA&P Team for usage• Non-Intact Skin: Contact VA&P Team for usage	Contact VA&P Team	N/A	Dressing must be changed daily by VA&P Team

CHG = chlorhexidine gluconate
VA&P = Vascular Access & Procedures

¹ Perform and document assessment every 12 hours in inpatient setting

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APPENDIX C: Visual Infusion Phlebitis Scale

Score	Observation
0	IV site appears healthy
1	One of the following is evident: Slight pain near IV site or slight redness near IV site
2	Two of the following are evident: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pain at IV site• Erythema• Swelling
3	All of the following signs are evident: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pain along path of cannula• Induration
4	All of the following signs are evident and extensive: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pain along path of cannula• Erythema• Induration• Palpable venous cord
5	All of the following signs are evident and extensive: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pain along path of cannula• Erythema• Induration• Palpable venous cord• Pyrexia

Jackson, A. (1998). Infection Control-A battle in vein: Infusion phlebitis. *Nursing Times*, 94(4), 68-71.

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SUGGESTED READINGS - continued

MD Anderson Institutional Policy #CLN0441 – Infection Control Associated with Vascular Access Devices (VADs) Policy

MD Anderson Institutional Policy #CLN0986 – Vascular Vesicant/Irritant Administration and Extravasation Policy

MD Anderson Institutional Policy #CLN1036 – Central Vascular Access Device (CVAD) Assessment and Tip Position Verification Policy

MD Anderson Institutional Policy #CLN3484 – Peripherally Inserted Central Catheter, Implanted Venous Port, Midline (Peripheral) Catheters, and Peripheral Intravenous Vascular Access Devices: Nursing Policy

MD Anderson Institutional Policy Attachment #ATT3306 – Nursing Heparin Lock Protocol: Central Venous Access Device Patency Management

MD Anderson Institutional Policy Attachment #ATT3308 – Nursing Flush Protocol: Venous Access Device Flush Management

Moureau, N. L., & Flynn, J. (2015). Disinfection of needleless connector hubs: Clinical evidence systematic review. *Nursing Research and Practice*, 2015, 796762, 1-20.
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DEVELOPMENT CREDITS

This practice consensus statement is based on majority opinion of the Vascular Access Devices Management experts at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center for the patient population. These experts included:

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