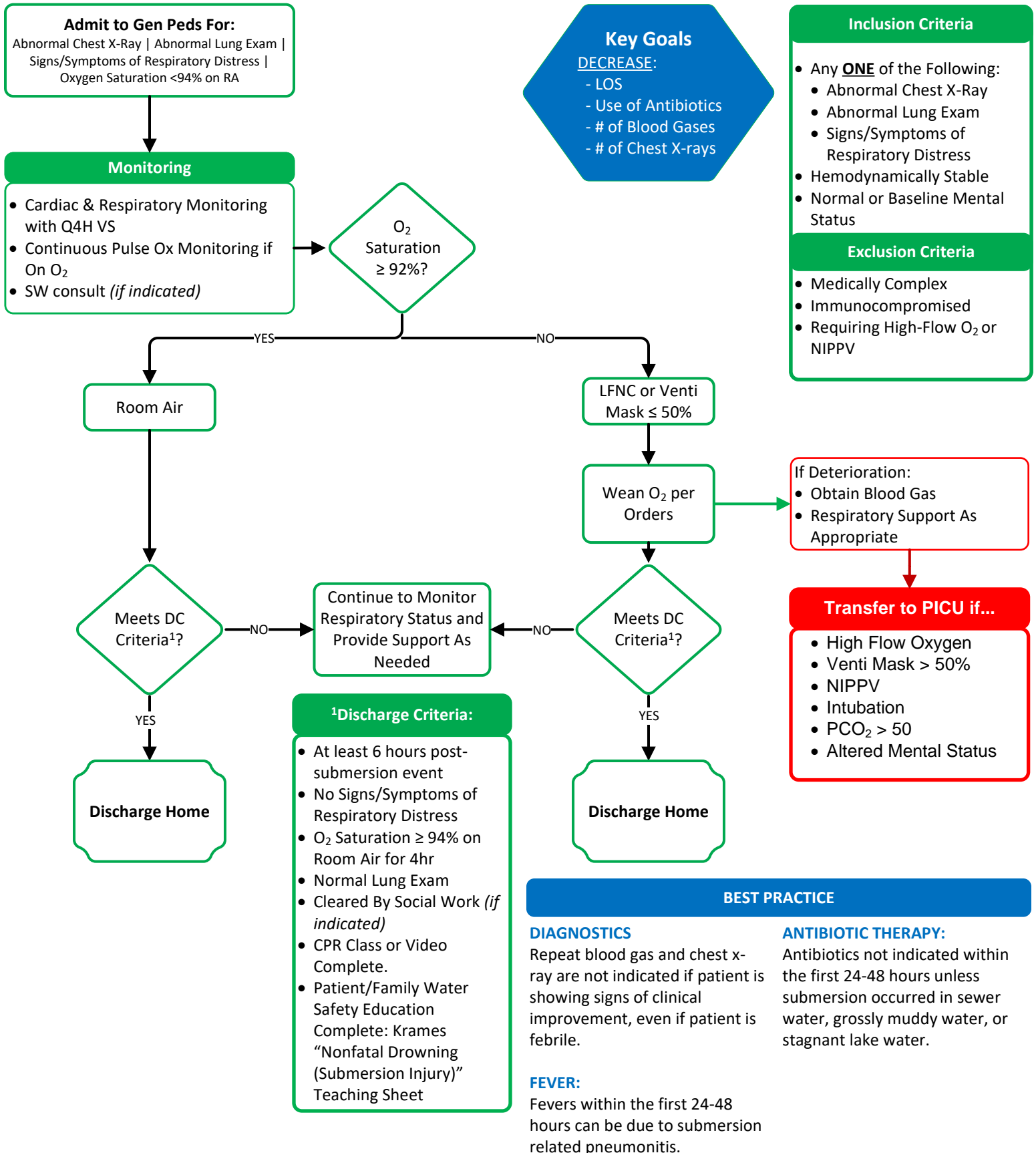


Acute Submersion Injury Pathway

General Patient Care Floor Management

Sept 2024



¹Discharge Criteria:

- At least 6 hours post-submersion event
- No Signs/Symptoms of Respiratory Distress
- O₂ Saturation ≥ 94% on Room Air for 4hr
- Normal Lung Exam
- Cleared By Social Work (if indicated)
- CPR Class or Video Complete.
- Patient/Family Water Safety Education Complete: Krames "Nonfatal Drowning (Submersion Injury)" Teaching Sheet

BEST PRACTICE

DIAGNOSTICS
Repeat blood gas and chest x-ray are not indicated if patient is showing signs of clinical improvement, even if patient is febrile.

FEVER:
Fever within the first 24-48 hours can be due to submersion related pneumonitis.

ANTIBIOTIC THERAPY:
Antibiotics not indicated within the first 24-48 hours unless submersion occurred in sewer water, grossly muddy water, or stagnant lake water.

Developed through the efforts of Children's Healthcare of Atlanta and physicians on Children's medical staff in the interest of advancing pediatric healthcare. This is a general guideline and does not represent a professional care standard governing providers' obligation to patients. Ultimately the patient's physician must determine the most appropriate care. © 2020 Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, Inc.