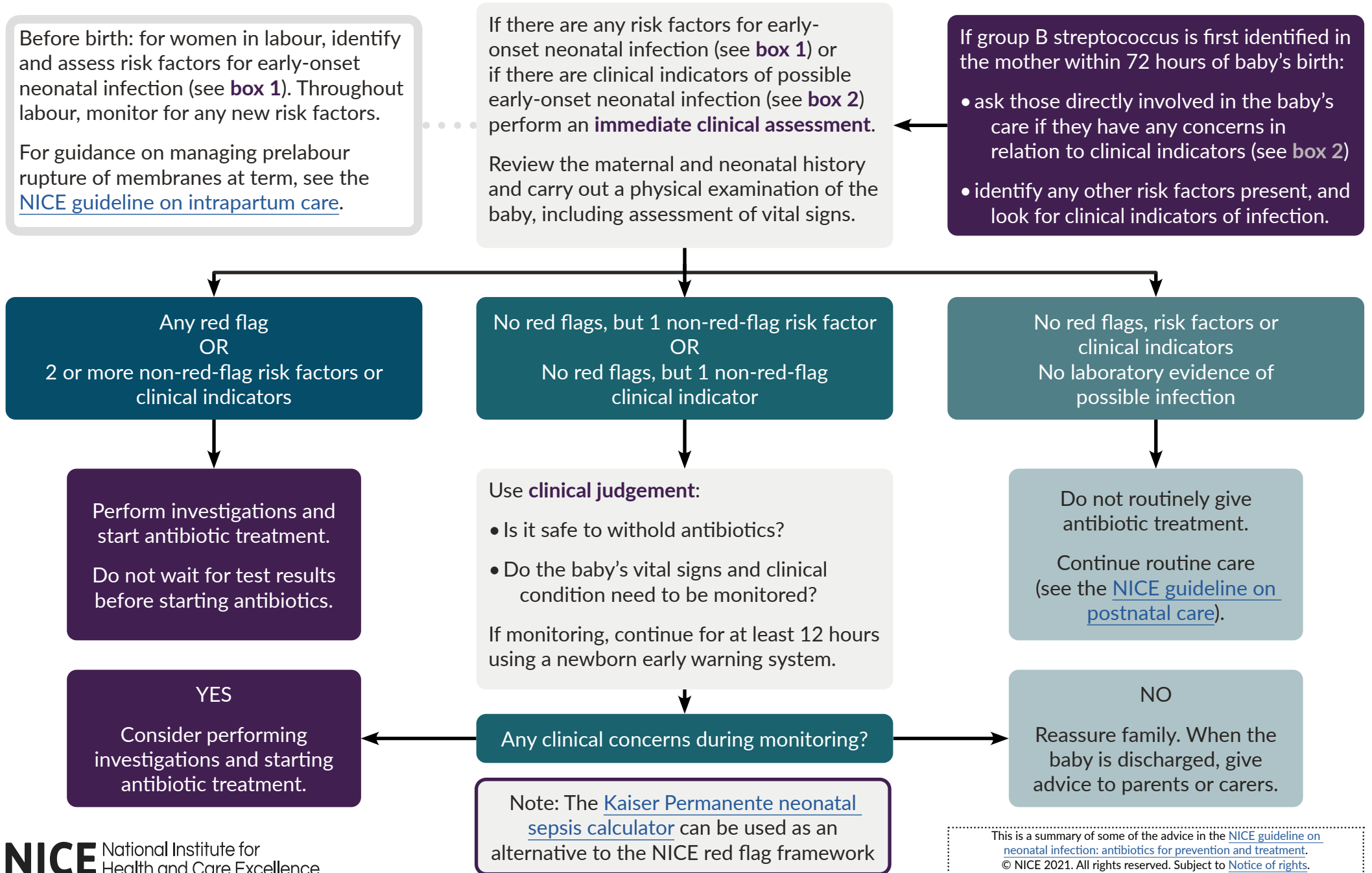


Neonatal infection: determining the need for antibiotic treatment of babies within 72 hours of birth (pg 1 of 2)



Box 1: Risk factors for early-onset neonatal infection

Red flag risk factor:

- Suspected or confirmed infection in another baby in the case of a multiple pregnancy.

Other risk factors (non-red-flag):

- Invasive group B streptococcal infection in a previous baby or maternal group B streptococcal colonisation, bacteriuria or infection in the current pregnancy.
- Preterm birth following spontaneous labour before 37 weeks' gestation.
- Confirmed rupture of membranes for more than 18 hours before a preterm birth.
- Confirmed prelabour rupture of membranes at term for more than 24 hours before the onset of labour.
- Intrapartum fever higher than 38°C, if there is suspected or confirmed bacterial infection.
- Clinical diagnosis of chorioamnionitis.

Box 2: Clinical indicators of possible early-onset neonatal infection

Red flag clinical indicators:

- Apnoea (temporary stopping of breathing)
- Seizures
- Need for cardiopulmonary resuscitation
- Need for mechanical ventilation
- Signs of shock

Other clinical indicators (non-red-flag):

- Altered behaviour or responsiveness
- Altered muscle tone (for example, floppiness)
- Feeding difficulties (for example, feed refusal)
- Feed intolerance, including vomiting, excessive gastric aspirates and abdominal distension
- Abnormal heart rate (bradycardia or tachycardia)
- Signs of respiratory distress (including grunting, recession, tachypnoea)
- Hypoxia (for example, central cyanosis or reduced oxygen saturation level)
- Persistent pulmonary hypertension of newborns
- Jaundice within 24 hours of birth
- Signs of neonatal encephalopathy
- Temperature abnormality (lower than 36°C or higher than 38°C) unexplained by environmental factors
- Unexplained excessive bleeding, thrombocytopenia, or abnormal coagulation
- Altered glucose homeostasis (hypoglycaemia or hyperglycaemia)
- Metabolic acidosis (base deficit of 10 mmol/litre or greater)