

RED FLAGS

Potential Bowel Obstruction

- Billious / Faecal vomiting
- No flatus
- AXR dilated bowel loops

ABCDE ASSESSMENT

ANY RED FLAGS

INVESTIGATE / MONITOR

- Full set observations
- IV Access
- Bloods FBC / U&E / LFT / Bone
- AXR
- +/- Erect CXR

YES

CALL SENIOR

NO

STEP 1

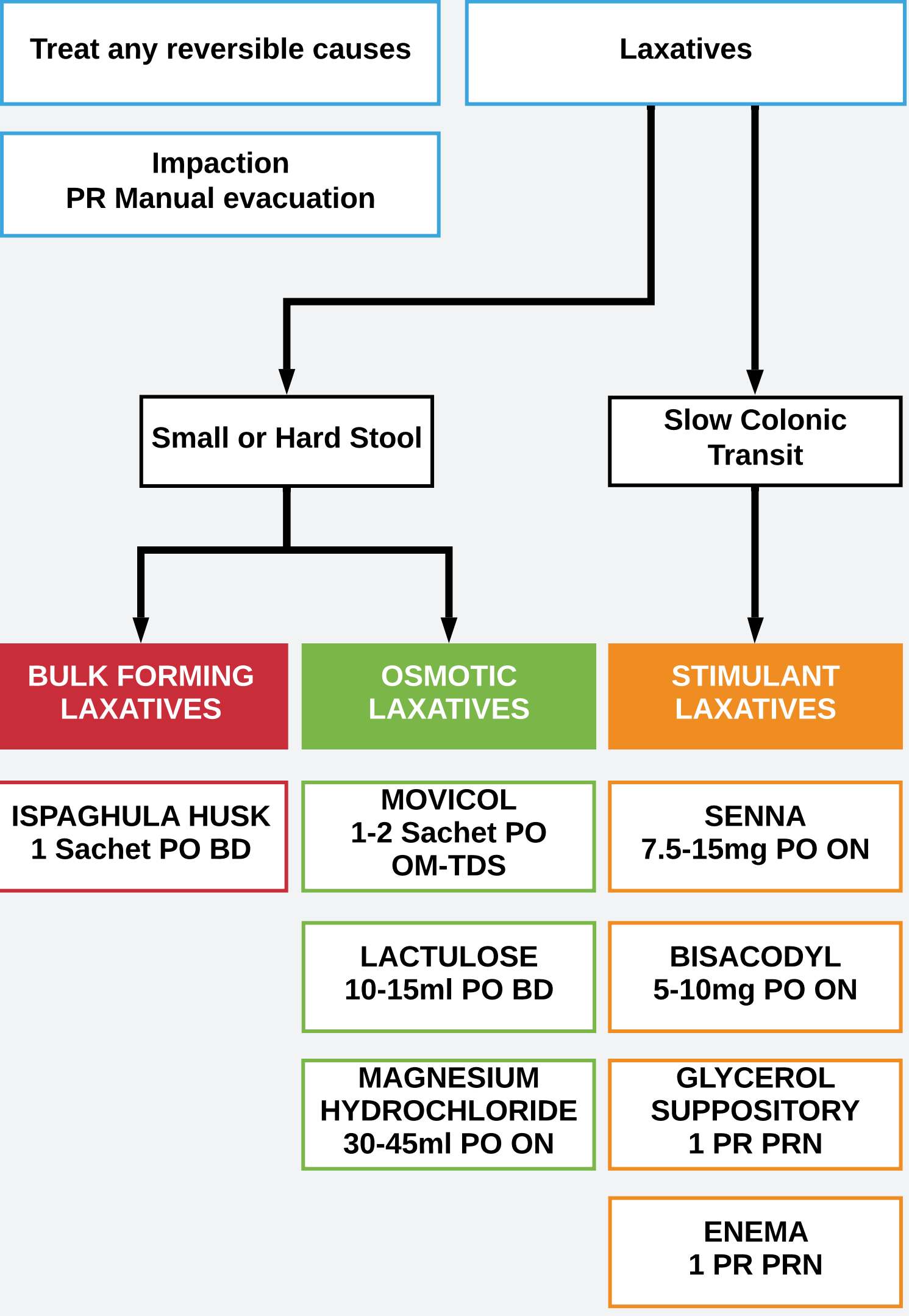
-DETERMINE CAUSE OF CONSTIPATION-

MECHANICAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Obstruction• Immobility
METABOLIC	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deranged electrolytes• Hypocalcaemia / Hypothyroidism• Dehydrated
IATROGENIC	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Medications - Opioids• Post-surgical Ileus
NEUROGENIC	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Spinal / Autonomic nerve injury

Discuss any potential Obstruction / Neurogenic cause with Senior first

STEP 2

-TREATMENT-



How much to give:

- There are several laxative regimes used by doctors
- No one regime is suitable for all patients

General advice:

- Start low dose and increase as needed to avoid excessive laxative treatment causing diarrhoea

Always consult BNF for dose / administration and contraindications for all above medications