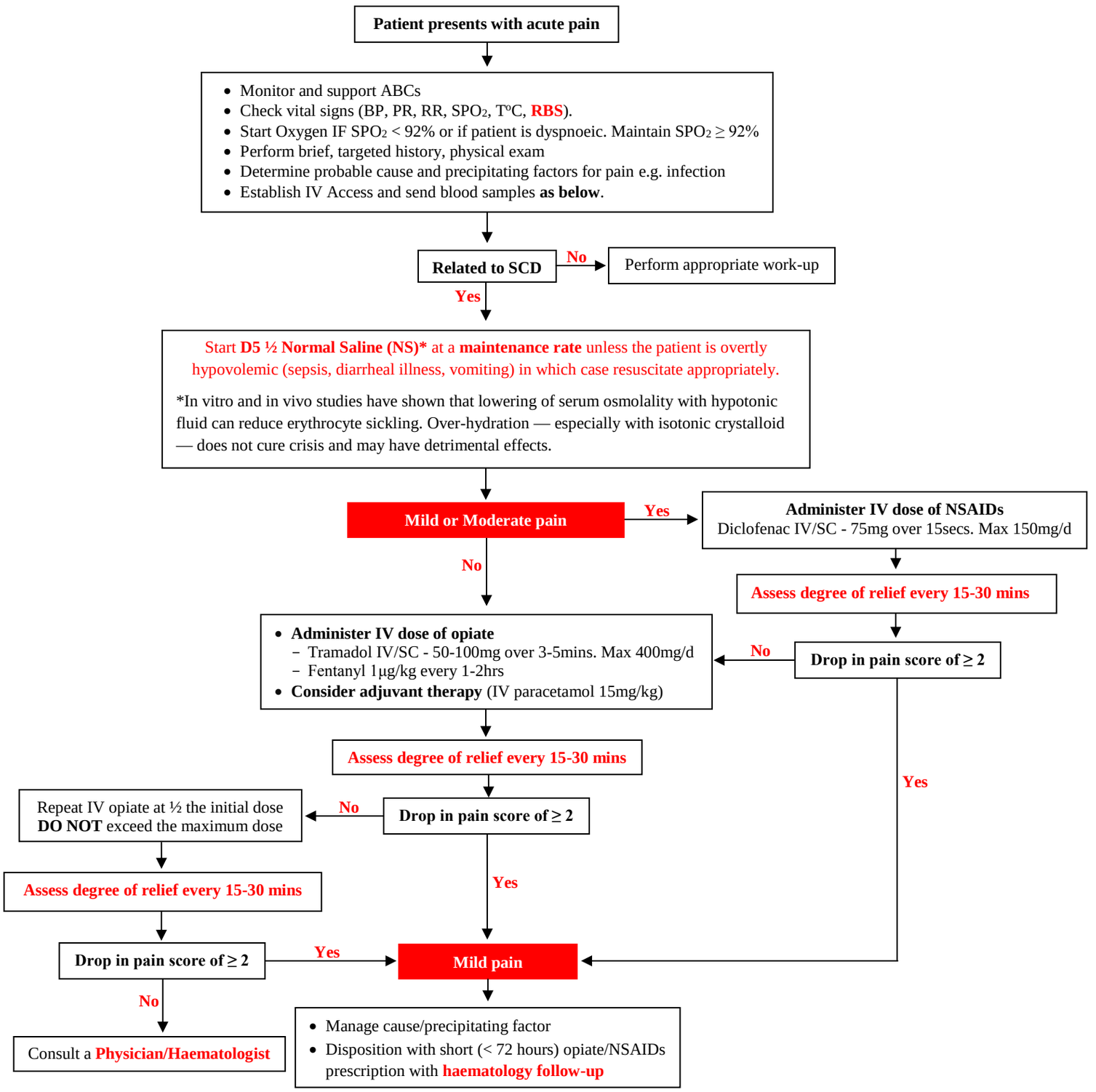
35. Management of Pain in Sickle Cell Disease Algorithm

This clinical pathway is intended to supplement, rather than substitute for, professional judgment and may be changed depending upon a patient's individual needs. Failure to comply with this pathway does not represent a breach of the standard of care.



Investigations:

Full Blood Count (FBC);

- Most patients with HbSS disease have a baseline haemoglobin level of 6 to 9 g/dL and tolerate this level of anaemia well because of physiologic adaptations.
- WBC is **NOT** a particularly sensitive nor specific indicator for infection

Reticulocyte count - normally elevated (>5%). Levels < 5% are a serious cause for concern as it signifies bone marrow hypo activity.

In patients with worsened scleral icterus, back pain, fever, or signs that suggest haemolysis, additional tests would include; **LFTs** and **LDH**

Renal function tests

Blood typing and screening is necessary **if haemoglobin has dropped > 1 mg/dL below baseline** or if there is concern that the patient may need a transfusion. Indications for blood transfusion; Severe anaemia - **↓ Hb > 2g/dL** below steady state or **< 6g/dL;** Acute chest syndrome; Priapism; CVA in children; Before surgery