

# Vomiting and Diarrhea

**History**

- Age
- Time of last meal
- Last emesis/bowel movement
- Improvement or worsening with food or activity
- Duration of problem
- Other sick contacts
- Past medical history
- Past surgical history
- Medications
- Menstrual history (Pregnancy)
- Travel history
- Bloody emesis/diarrhea

**Signs and Symptoms**

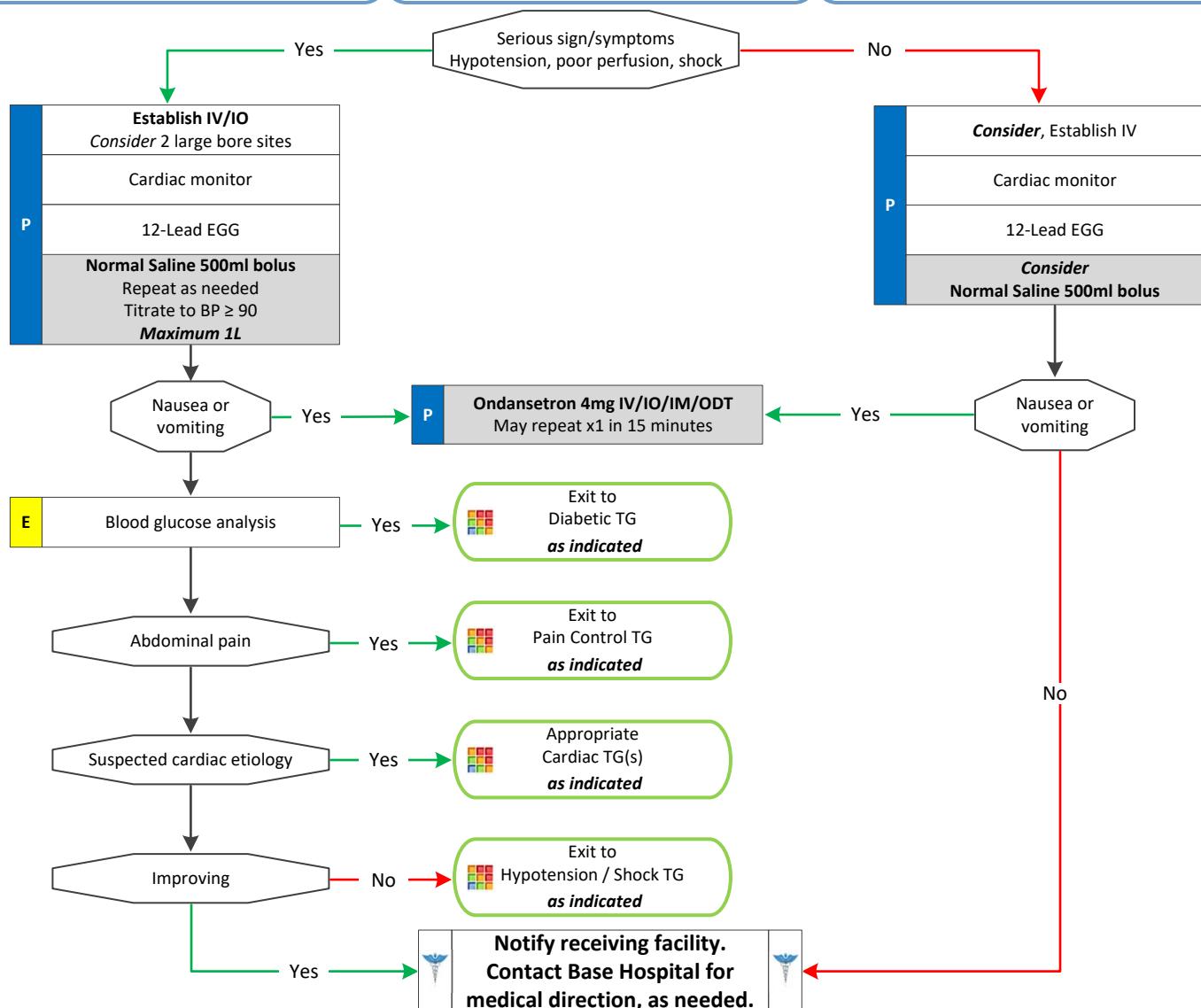
- Abdominal pain
- Character of pain (constant, intermittent, dull, sharp, etc.)
- Distension
- Constipation
- Diarrhea
- Anorexia
- Radiation

**Associated symptoms (helpful to localize source):**

Fever, headache, blurred vision, weakness, malaise, myalgia, cough, dysuria, mental status changes, and rash

**Differential**

- CNS (increased pressure, headache, stroke, CNS lesions, trauma or hemorrhage, vestibular)
- MI
- Drugs (NSAIDs, antibiotics, narcotics, chemotherapy)
- GI or renal disorders
- Diabetic ketoacidosis
- Gynecologic disease (ovarian cyst, PID)
- Infections (pneumonia, influenza)
- Electrolyte abnormalities
- Food or toxin induced
- Medication or substance abuse
- Pregnancy
- Psychological

**Pearls**

- Ondansetron is not indicated or useful for motion sickness.
- Document the mental status and vital signs prior to administration of anti-emetics.



## Treatment Guideline A20