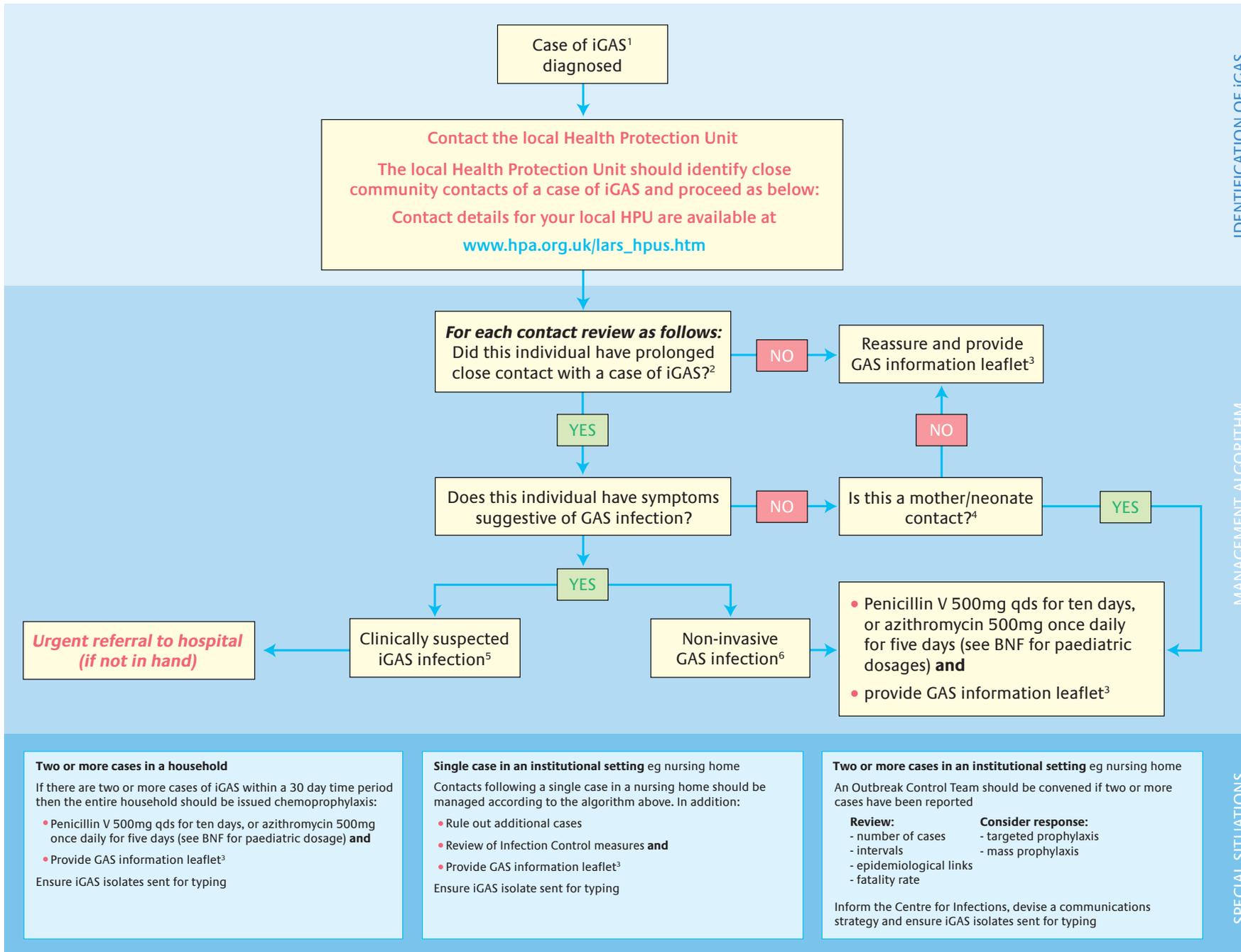


Interim UK guidelines for management of close community contacts of invasive Group A Streptococcal disease (iGAS)



- Invasive Group A Streptococcal (iGAS) cases are defined through the isolation of GAS from a sterile site or from a non-sterile site in patients with clinical signs of streptococcal toxic-shock syndrome (STSS). Ensure iGAS isolates sent for typing.
- Close contact is defined as someone who has had prolonged close contact with the case in a household type setting during the seven days before onset of illness. Examples of such contacts would be those living and/or sleeping in the same household, pupils in the same dormitory, boy/girlfriends or university students sharing a kitchen in a hall of residence. In addition someone who has been directly exposed to larger particle droplet/secretions from the respiratory tract of a case around the time of admission to hospital should be considered a close contact e.g. been involved in resuscitation of the case.
- The provision of information to close community contacts of cases of iGAS forms the risk communication strategy. The HPA has a Q&A information leaflet for close community contacts of cases of iGAS available at: www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics_az/strepto/pyogenic/QAhd.htm
- If either mother or baby develops iGAS in the neonatal period (first 28 days of life) then the other, as the 'contact', should be given antibiotics as indicated above.
- Symptoms suggestive of invasive disease include high fever, severe muscle aches, localised muscle tenderness (a lot of pain but not a lot to see), otherwise unexplained gastrointestinal symptoms +/- a high index of suspicion of invasive disease. In the absence of a more likely alternative diagnosis then an emergency referral to A&E or examination by ID physician/specialist in severe GAS infection is indicated. The A&E department (Sister in Charge) should be contacted directly to advise them of the incoming patient.
- Symptoms suggestive of a non-invasive GAS infection include sore throat, low grade fever, minor skin infections plus a low index of suspicion of invasive disease

