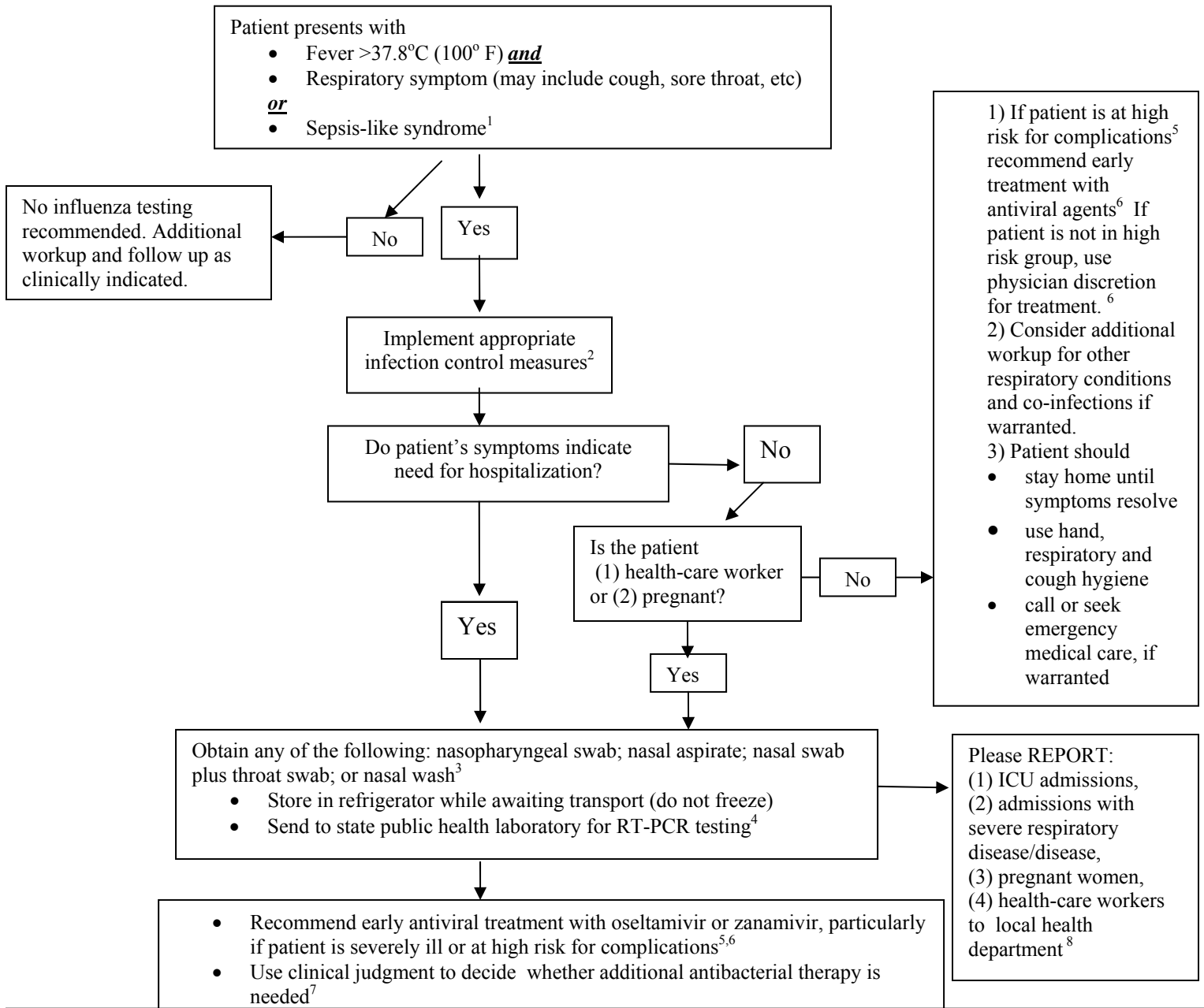


Algorithm for clinicians to assist in decisions on testing and treatment for H1N1 (swine flu) virus



1. As with seasonal influenza, infants, adults ≥ 65 years-old, and persons with compromised immune systems may have atypical presentations.

2. Information on infection control can be found at: <http://health.state.tn.us/H1N1.htm>

3. Nasal washes require appropriate personal protective equipment. See <http://health.state.tn.us/H1N1.htm>

4. Real-time polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) is the preferred laboratory test for identifying H1N1 (swine flu) virus. Rapid antigen tests and immunofluorescence tests have unknown sensitivity and specificity to detect H1N1 (swine flu) virus. For more information, please see: <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/specimencollection.htm>. Please use the following form to submit specimens to the Tennessee Department of Health State laboratory: <http://health.state.tn.us/Downloads/TNNovelFluSpecimenForm.pdf>. Additional guidance on specimen handling and shipping can be found at: <http://health.state.tn.us/H1N1.htm>

5. Persons at high risk of complications: Children < 5 years, persons ≥ 65 years; children and adolescents (aged 6 months–18 years) on long-term aspirin therapy and who might be at risk for experiencing Reye syndrome; pregnant women; adults and children who have chronic pulmonary, cardiovascular, hepatic, hematological, neurologic, neuromuscular, or metabolic disorders; adults and children who have immunosuppression (e.g., HIV, immunosuppressive medications); residents of nursing homes and other chronic-care facilities.

6. Information on use of antiviral agents can be found at: <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/recommendations.htm>

7. Interim guidance for clinicians is available at: <http://health.state.tn.us/H1N1.htm>

8. Tennessee local health department information/numbers: <http://health.state.tn.us/localdepartments.htm>