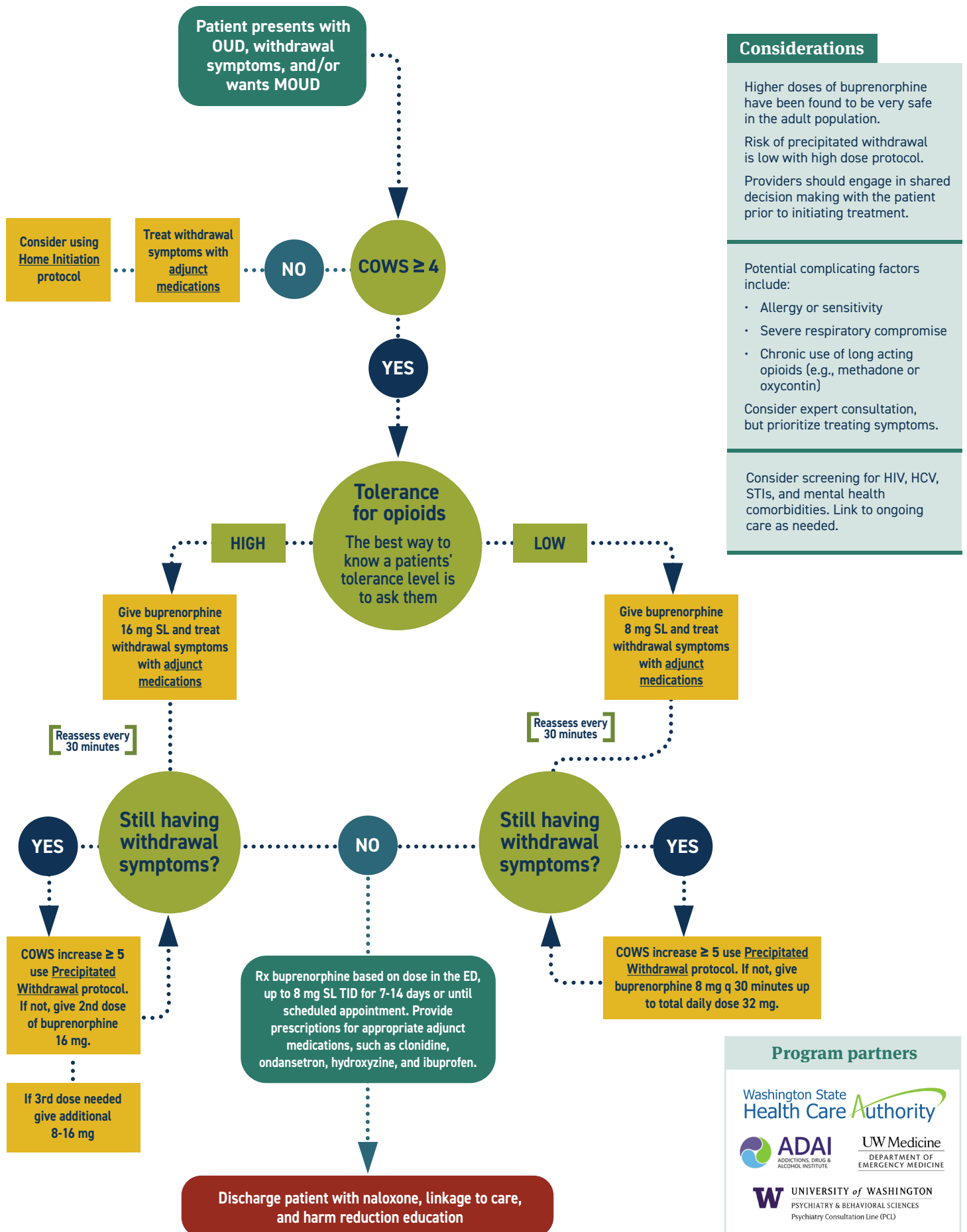


Buprenorphine Initiation



Considerations

Higher doses of buprenorphine have been found to be very safe in the adult population.

Risk of precipitated withdrawal is low with high dose protocol.

Providers should engage in shared decision making with the patient prior to initiating treatment.

Potential complicating factors include:

- Allergy or sensitivity
- Severe respiratory compromise
- Chronic use of long acting opioids (e.g., methadone or oxycontin)

Consider expert consultation, but prioritize treating symptoms.

Consider screening for HIV, HCV, STIs, and mental health comorbidities. Link to ongoing care as needed.

Program partners