

High Risk Feeding Protocol

Pre Operative Feeding Algorithm

High Risk Lesion Protocol

(Ages 0-4 months)

38 weeks term

Excludes patients on ECLS

Nutritional Goals:

- Total Fluids: 100-140 ml/kg
- Protein: 3 gm/kg
- PN Only: 90-100kcal/kg
- PN+ EN/Oral: 100-120 kcal/kg
- EN/ Oral ONLY: 120-140kcal/kg
- Donor or expressed breast milk highly recommended

High-Risk Lesions:

- Single ventricle
- Shunt /PGE dependent
- Other lesions w/ excessive pulmonary blood flow

DOL 1-3+
Prior to
repair

Is patient
hemodynamically
stable?

Yes

No

- Lactate <2
- Epi <0.05mcg
- DBP>30
- UOP> 1mL/kg/hr

- Encourage oral stimulation & nonnutritive & breast feeding
- Order ST consult
- Order TPN & Lipids within 24hrs
 - Nipple/colostrum swabs Q6h
 - Involve family

Is patient safe to eat orally?*

Yes

No

- Order TPN & lipids within 24 hours
- Order ST consult

- Advance concentration based on total fluid goal

- Assess daily, is the patient hemodynamically stable?

- Begin oral nutrition
- Use EBM/ standard term formula
- Feed every 3 hours
- NG gavage if unable to finish feed
- Target 20ml/kg/day

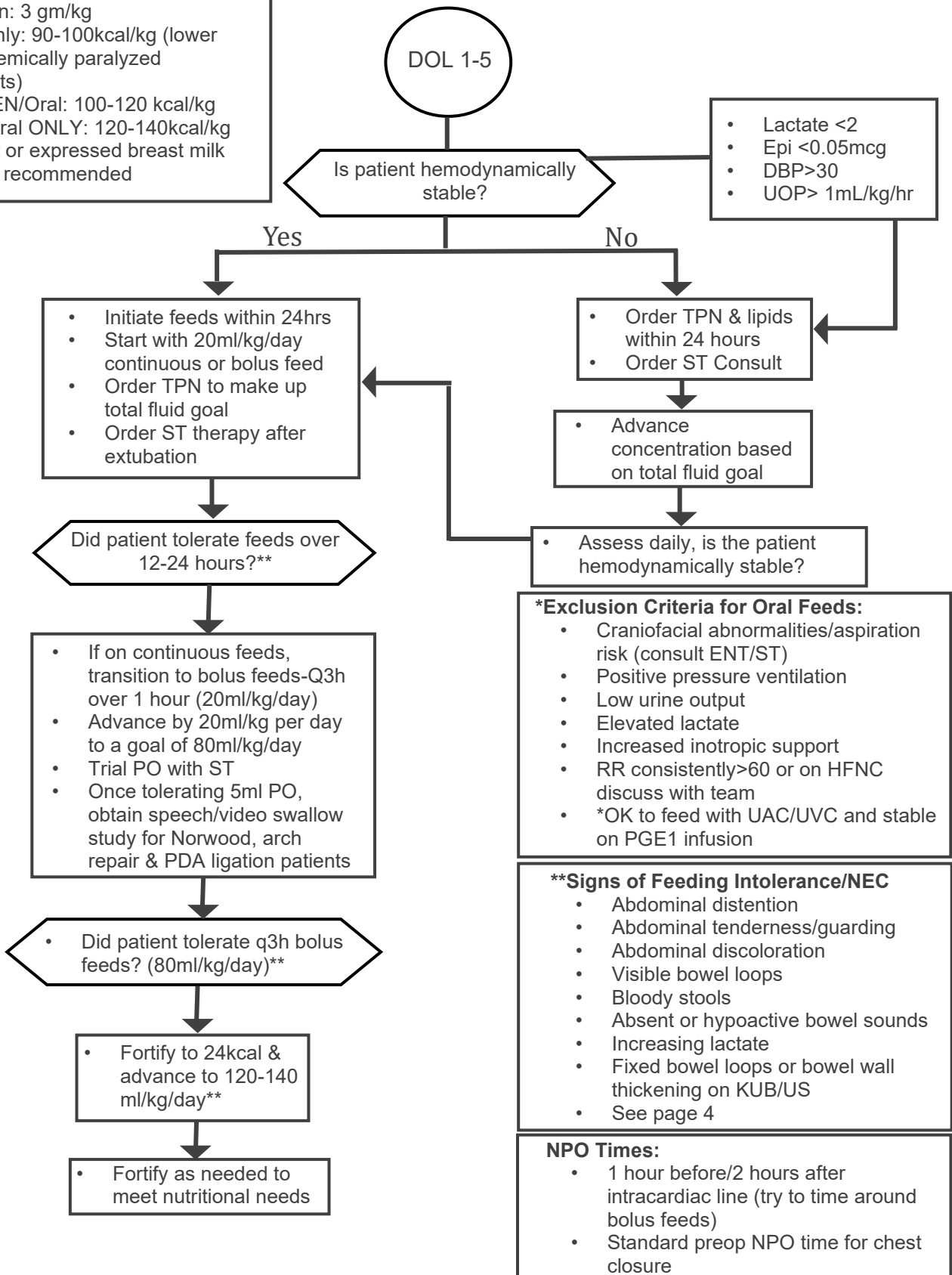
- Begin enteral nutrition
- Use EBM/ standard term formula
- Bolus feeds every 3 hours
- Target 20 ml/kg/day

- Advance daily by 20ml/kg/day
- Max of 40-60 ml/kg/day

Post Operative Feeding Algorithm
Single Ventricle/Shunt Dependent Lesions
38 weeks term
Excludes patients on ECLS

Nutritional Goals:

- Total Fluids: 100-140 ml/kg
- Protein: 3 gm/kg
- PN Only: 90-100kcal/kg (lower for chemically paralyzed patients)
- PN+ EN/Oral: 100-120 kcal/kg
- EN/ Oral ONLY: 120-140kcal/kg
- Donor or expressed breast milk highly recommended



Post Operative Feeding Algorithm

Single Ventricle/Shunt Dependent Lesions

History of >2 NEC occurrences

38 weeks term

Excludes patients on ECLS

Nutritional Goals:

- Total Fluids: 100-140 ml/kg
- Protein: 3 gm/kg
- PN Only: 90-100kcal/kg (lower for chemically paralyzed patients)
- PN+ EN/Oral: 100-120 kcal/kg
- EN/ Oral ONLY: 120-140kcal/kg
- Donor or expressed breast milk highly recommended

DOL 1-5
Initiate feeds
within 24 hrs

Is patient hemodynamically
stable & extubated?

- Lactate <2
- Epi <0.05mcg
- DBP>30
- UOP> 1mL/kg/hr

Yes

No

- Start with 10ml/kg/day continuous feeds

Did patient tolerate feeds over
24 hours?**

- Advance to feeds by 10ml/kg/day to a goal of 40ml/kg/day

Did patient tolerate feeds
(40ml/kg/day)?**

- Convert to bolus feeds Q3h over 1h (hold for 24 hrs)

Did patient tolerate bolus feeds?**

- Advance by 20ml/kg/day to a goal of 80ml/kg/day
- Hold at 80ml/kg/day for 24 hours

Did patient tolerate feeds?

- Advance by 20ml/kg/day to goal of 140ml/kg/day

- Order TPN & lipids within 24 hours
- Order ST consult

- Advance concentration based on total fluid goal

- Assess daily, is the patient hemodynamically stable?

*Exclusion Criteria for Oral Feeds:

- Craniofacial abnormalities
- Positive pressure ventilation
- Low urine output
- Elevated lactate
- Increased inotropic support
- RR consistently>60 or on HFNC discuss with team

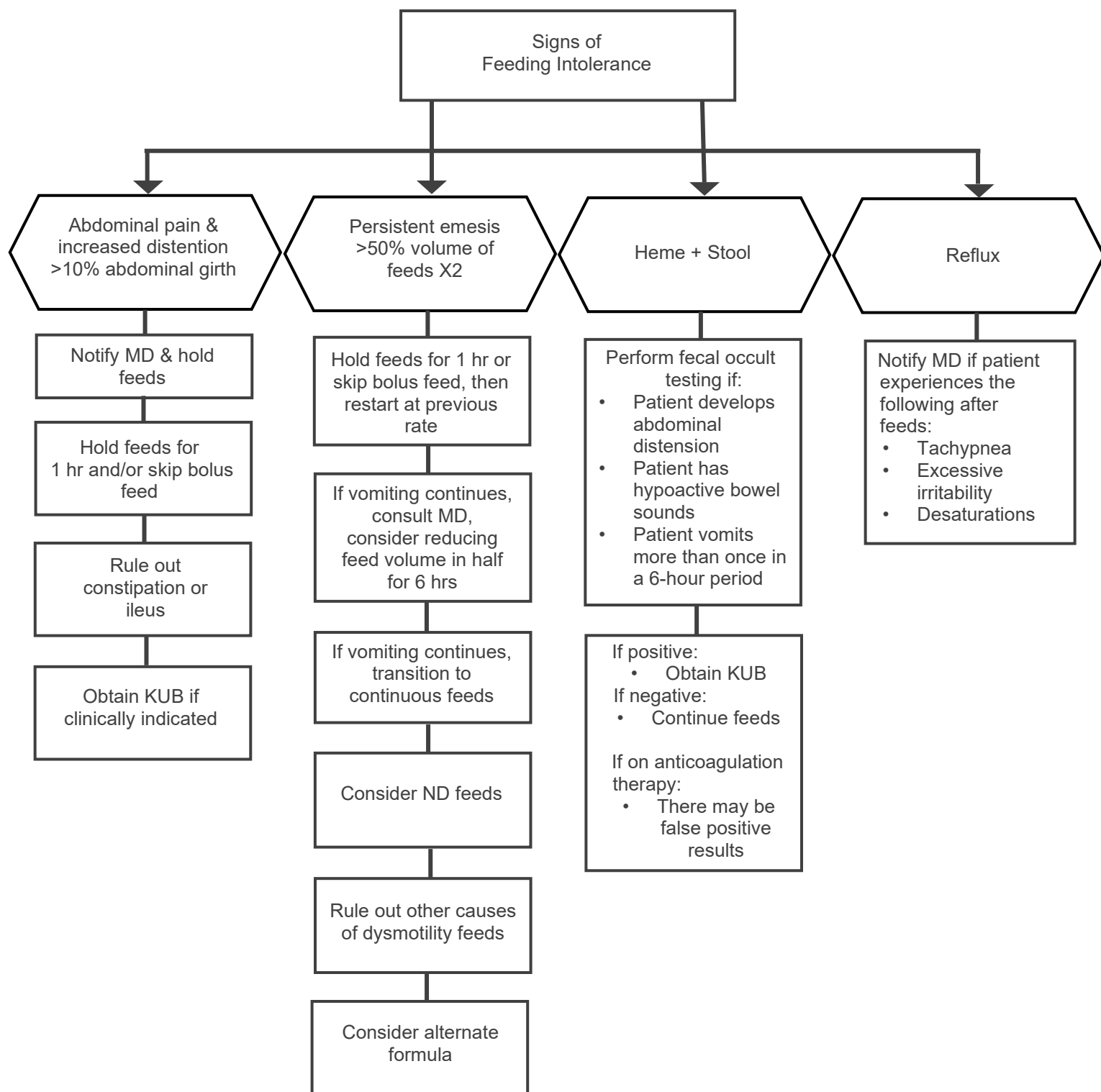
*OK to feed with UAC/UVC and stable on PGE1 infusion

**Signs of Feeding Intolerance/NEC

- Abdominal distention
- Abdominal tenderness/guarding
- Abdominal discoloration
- Visible bowel loops
- Bloody stools
- Absent or hypoactive bowel sounds
- Increasing lactate
- Fixed bowel loops or bowel wall thickening on KUB/US
- See page 4

NPO Times:

- 1 hour before/2 hours after intracardiac line (try to time around bolus feeds)
- Standard preop NPO time for chest closure





References:

- Kataria-Hale, J., Gollina, L., Bonagurio, K., Blanco, C., & Hair, A. (2023). Nutrition for infants with congenital heart disease. *Clinics in Perinatology*, 50(4), 699–713. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.clp.2023.04.007>,
- Luca, A., et al. (2022). Optimal nutrition parameters for neonates and infants with congenital heart disease. *Nutrients*, 14(1671), 1–11. <https://doi.org/10.3390/nu14081671>.
- Salvatori, G., et al. (2022). Current strategies to optimize nutrition and growth in newborns and infants with congenital heart disease: A narrative review. *Journal of Clinical Medicine*, 11(1841), 1–14. <https://doi.org/10.3390/jcm11071841>
- UC Davis Medical Center Pediatric Cardiac Intensive Care Unit. (2021). HLHS nutrition guidelines for stage 1 repair HLHS feeding guidelines [HLHS Feeding Guidelines 2021.pdf](#).

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