

Emergency Decision Unit Pathway

Headache

Patient details

Full name

DoB

Unit number

(use sticker if available)

Date **DD/MM/YY**

Has lived in UK >1 year?

Yes No

Inclusion criteria

- Adult ED patients with suspected subarachnoid haemorrhage (SAH) who fulfil EDU admission criteria as per 'Acute headache' ED management tool
- OR**
- Adult ED patients identified as having a primary, medication overuse or nonspecific acute headache as per 'Acute headache' ED management tool whose symptoms have not sufficiently settled to allow discharge directly from the ED

Exclusion criteria

- SAH suspected **AND**
 - Patient returning to ED during same headache period after discharge
 - SAH high-risk indicators present (see box 1 on the 'Acute headache' ED management tool)
 - Onset of headache >48h ago
 - Haematocrit <0.3
- Requiring hospital admission regardless of SAH rule-out or headache symptom control

Notes to doctor completing this pathway (ED senior to ensure compliance)

- This pathway must only be used in conjunction with the ED 'Acute headache' tool
- On the aforementioned tool, ensure you have completed all details up to the point of transfer to EDU
- Complete a drug chart as appropriate
- **NB:** protocol violations are potentially dangerous to patients, yourself and the department. **Do not bend the rules!**

EDU plan

Select and tick the relevant admission scenario below

Needs symptom control for primary, medication overuse or non-specific acute headache

- Prescribe appropriate medications as per boxes 7 and 8 on the 'Acute headache' ED management tool
- Discharge as soon as symptom control acceptable (**NB:** Patient does **NOT** have to be completely pain free)

Needs SAH rule out

- Complete boxes relating to the time interval between headache onset and CT head

Date of headache onset **DD/MM/YY**

Time of headache onset **HH:MM**
use 24h clock

Time of CT head **HH:MM**
use 24h clock

Total hours passed between headache onset and CT head **HH**

NB: must be <48

- EDU staff to give patient a copy of the 'Suspected subarachnoid haemorrhage' PIL
- Patient to be reviewed and managed as per flowchart on reverse once CT head report available

Planned & agreed by

Referring doctor

Doctor in charge

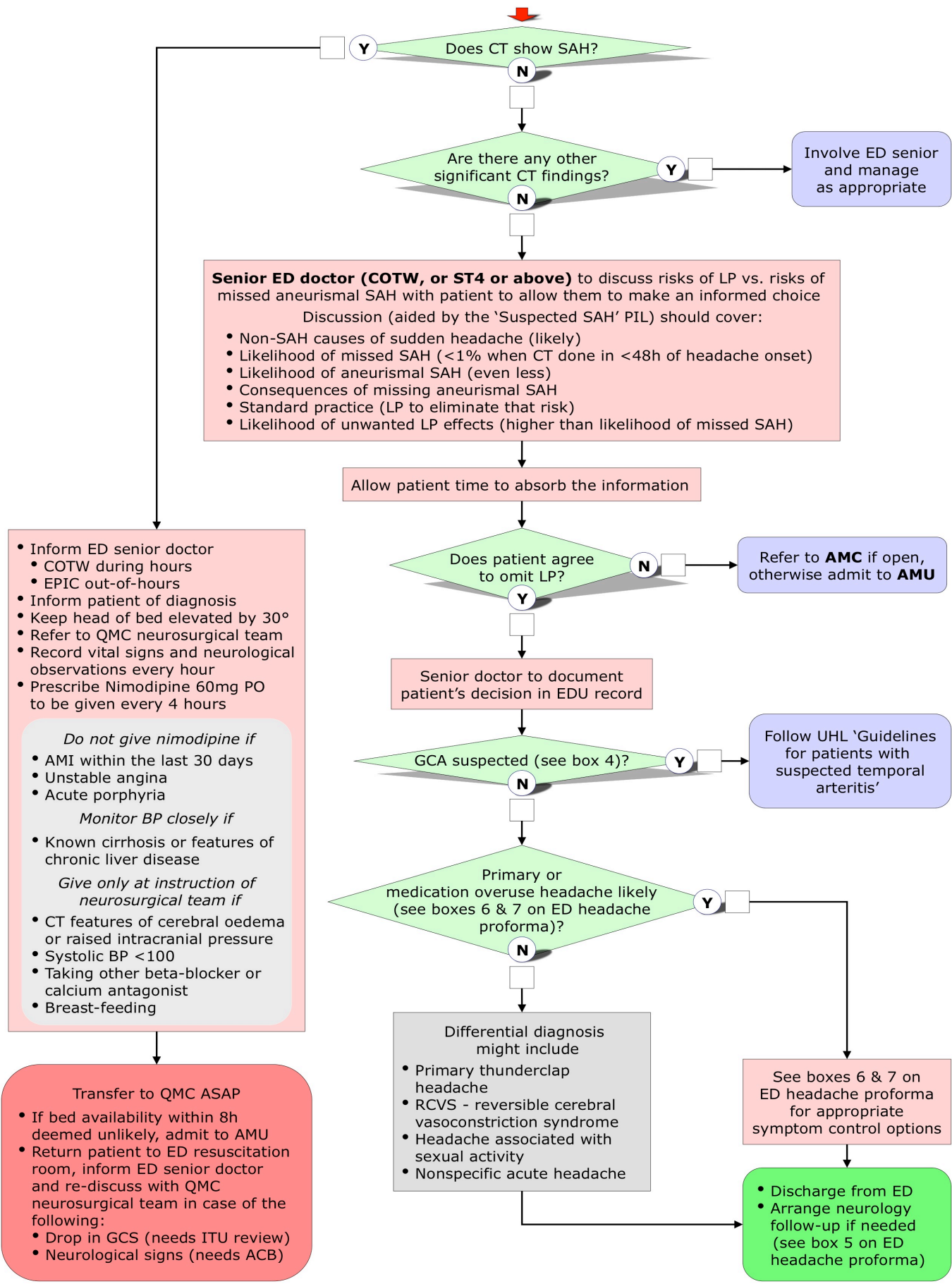
Senior nurse EDU

Print names

Signatures

NB: A drug chart must be written before pathway can be signed off

EDU management of people with suspected SAH following CT report



Patient managed by

Print name	Signature	Role