

June 2014

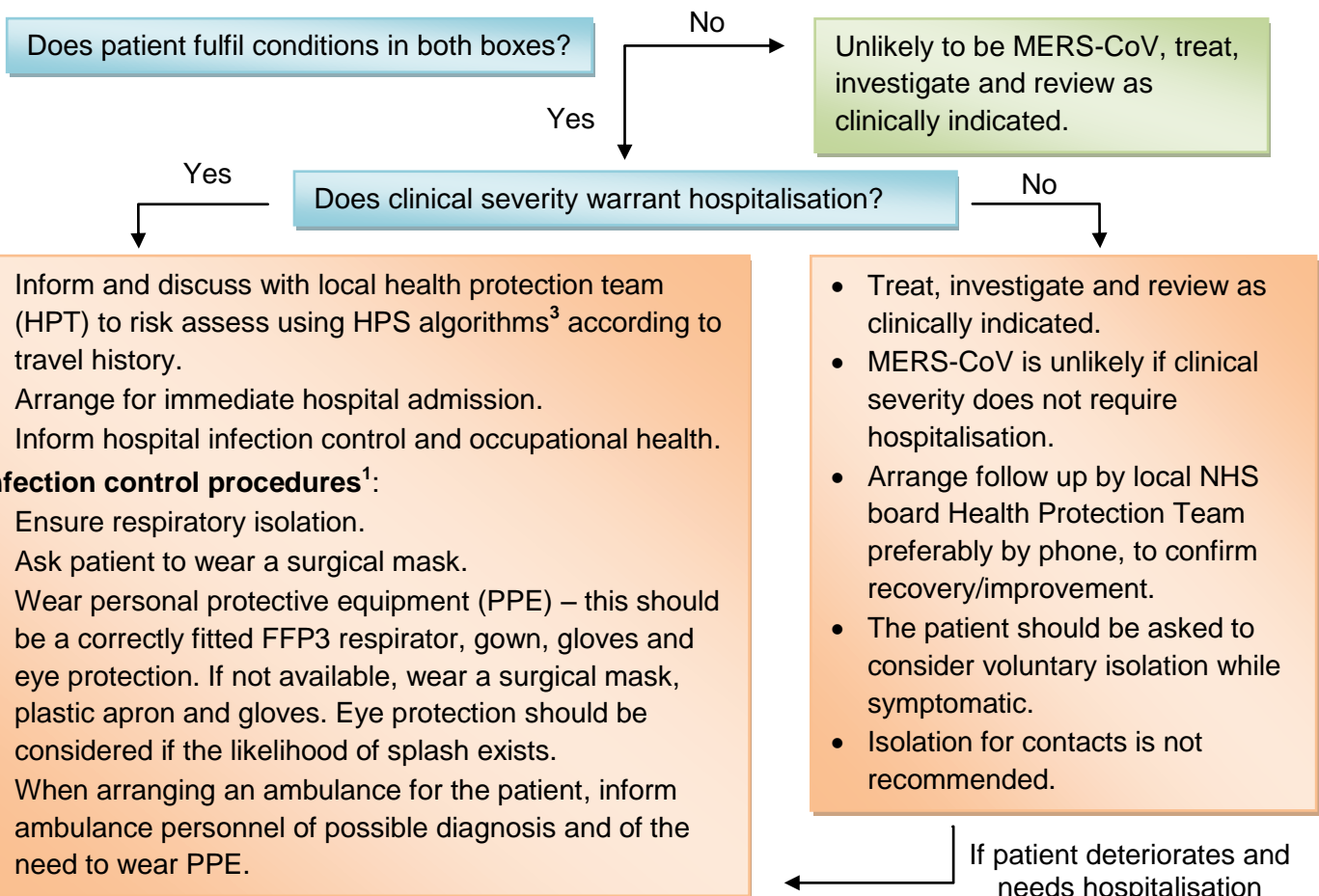
Version: 1 (based on PHE primary care algorithm v7)

Algorithm for the assessment and initial management in primary care of returning travellers and visitors from countries² affected by Middle East Respiratory Syndrome-Coronavirus (MERS-CoV) presenting with febrile respiratory illness: recognition of a possible case and initial management.

Infection control procedures: If the patient mentions a febrile respiratory illness on arrival to the primary care facility and is a returning traveller or visitor from countries affected by MERS-CoV (as outlined above), standard respiratory precautions¹ are indicated to minimise contact/exposure to staff and other patients.

MERS-CoV Risk assessment: For a possible case, patients must fulfil the conditions in both the boxes below (i.e. Clinical **AND** Exposure criteria met):

Clinical	A. Fever $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$ or history of fever AND B. Lower respiratory tract symptoms (cough or shortness of breath) or clinical signs of lower respiratory tract infection OR C. Other severe/life-threatening illness suggestive of an infectious process
Exposure	AND History of travel to, or residence in a high-risk area ² for MERS-CoV within 14 days of symptom onset OR close contact with a confirmed case.



¹ Refer to infection control advice for MERS-CoV guidance: <http://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/resp/publicationsdetail.aspx?id=52826>

² As of 04/04/2014: Bahrain, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Lebanon, Occupied Palestinian territories, Oman, Qatar, Syria, UAE and Yemen – see [map](#)

³ For HPS algorithms for MERS-CoV: <http://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/resp/coronavirus.aspx?subjectid=CA>