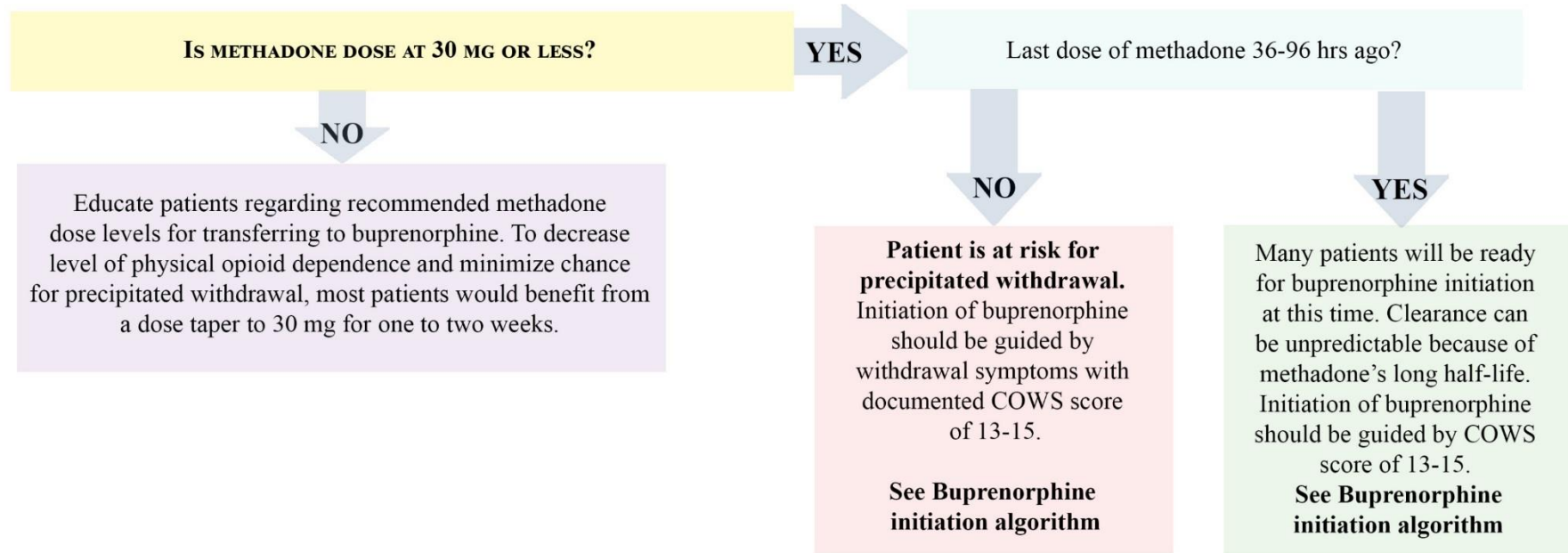


METHADONE TO BUPRENORPHINE TRANSITIONS



Special considerations

Transition from methadone to buprenorphine is a challenging time. Patients must be carefully monitored for comfort/safety and may require medications to ease the symptoms of withdrawal during the period of transition (i.e. during the 1-2 weeks of last methadone dose and buprenorphine titration). Patients should be given access to after hours support especially if transitional period is over the weekend. Patients should plan for possible discomfort during transition and could consider adjunct familial support, time off from work, arrangements for child care, etc.

It is highly recommended to sign 42 CFR releases and collaborate with patient's OTP program to assist with transfer of care and timing of last methadone dose. Close communication with patient and methadone treatment program is essential to coordinate plan of care. Ensure that should patient want to return to methadone, transition will be without treatment interruption.