

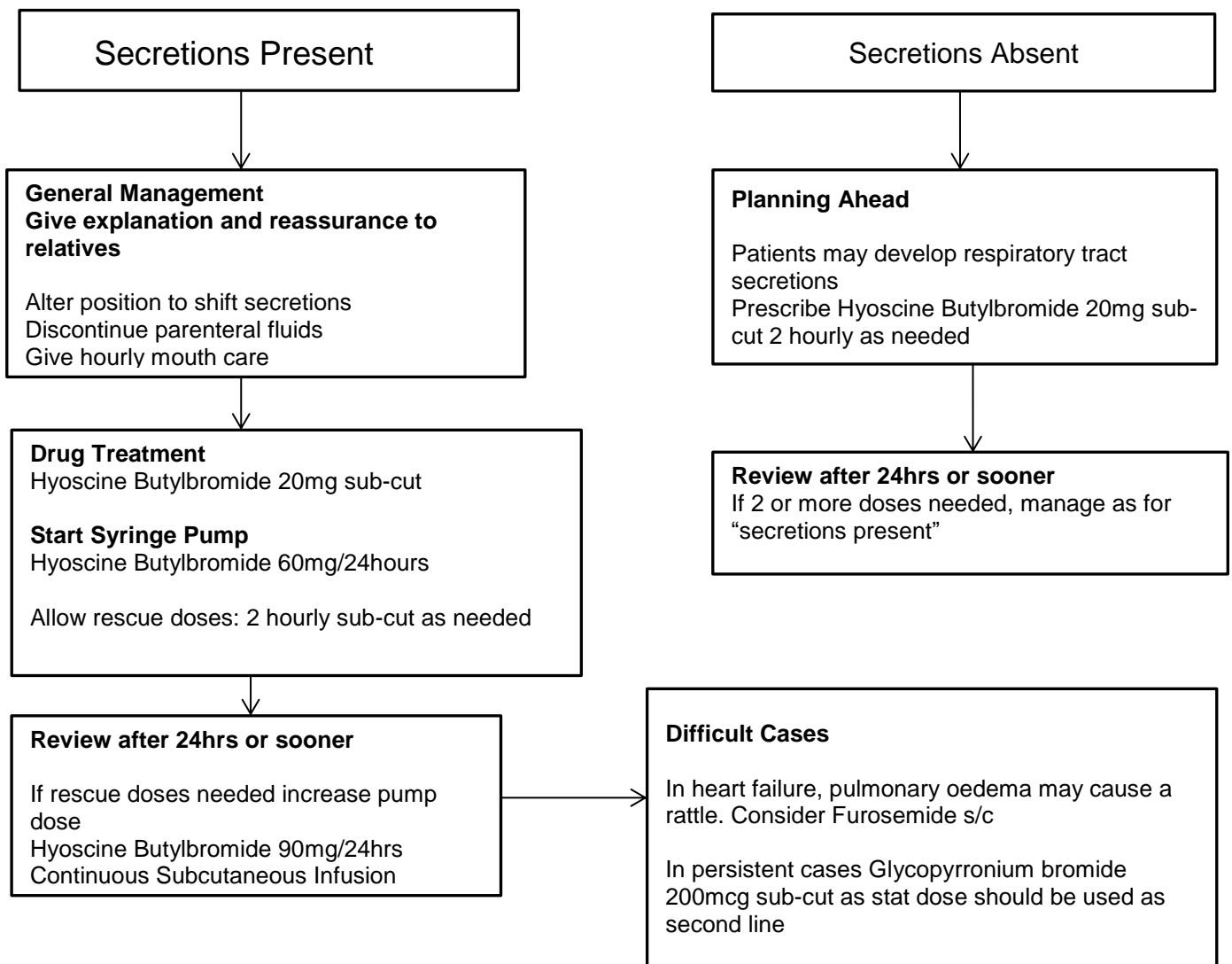
RESPIRATORY TRACT SECRETIONS IN DYING PATIENTS

Dying patients may be unable to cough effectively or swallow, which can lead to retained secretions in the upper respiratory tract. There is little evidence to support the effectiveness of drug treatment for this symptom. If the patient appears comfortable and not distressed reassure relatives and staff.

Hyoscine Butylbromide is our drug of choice to use in respiratory tract secretions at end of life

Hyoscine Butylbromide is non-sedating; Note it does not mix well with Cyclizine in a syringe and blocks the prokinetic antiemetic action of Metoclopramide

If rattling breathing is associated with breathlessness in a semiconscious patient, add in an opioid +/- an anxiolytic sedative (Midazolam)



If symptoms persist or you need help contact the Palliative Care Team or Severn Hospice on Tel: 01743 236 565