

Neonatal seizures: Assessment and management

Baby with suspected seizure activity

Observe and monitor:

- Seizure activity
- Temperature, heart rate, respiratory rate & effort, BP, O₂ saturation

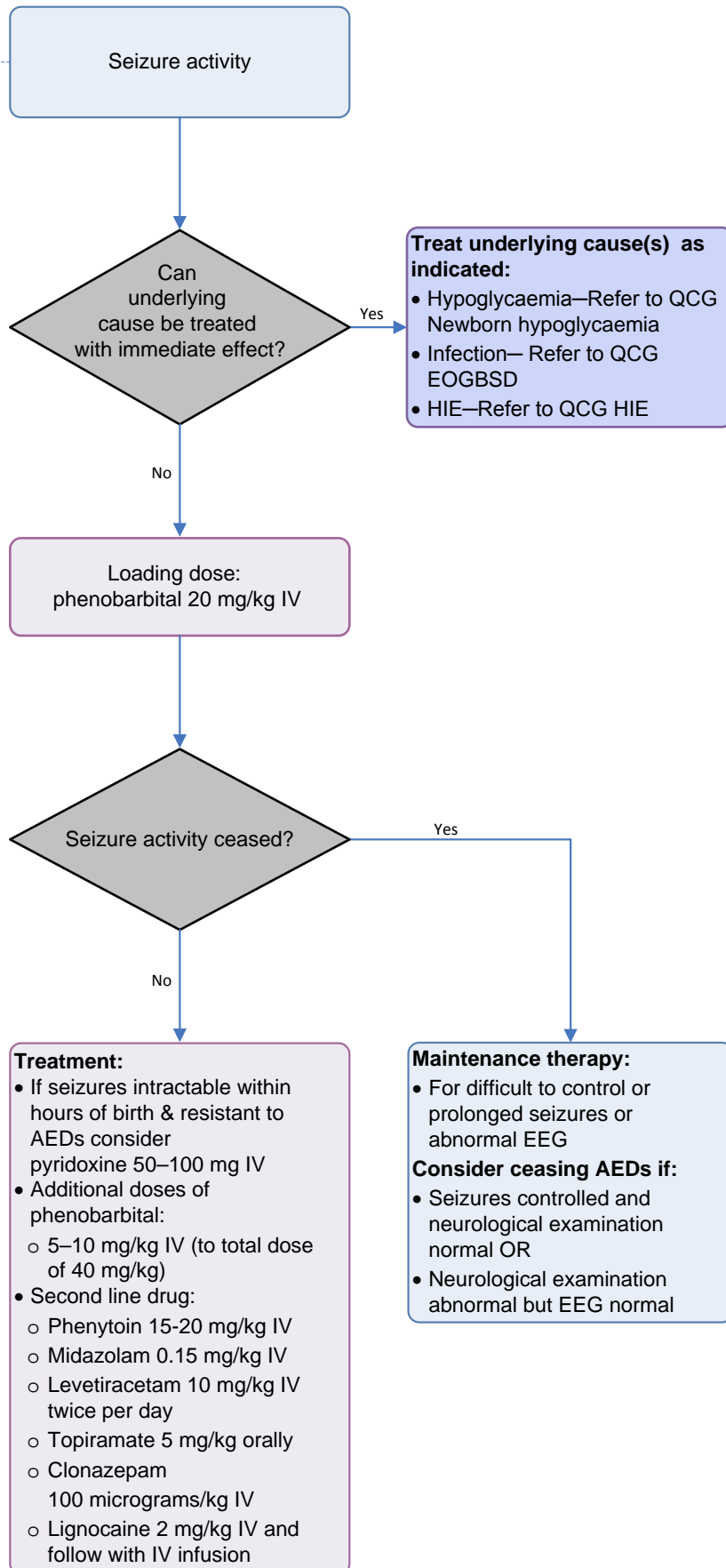
Treat cardiorespiratory compromise

Assessment:

- Review history (maternal, perinatal, family)
- Physical examination
- Neurological examination
- Investigate for underlying cause as required
 - Refer to flowchart: *Investigations*

Management:

- Treat underlying cause
 - Refer to other QCG guidelines
- Commence AEDs if seizures:
 - Duration > 3 minutes
 - More than 2 brief episodes
 - Detected on EEG
- Initiate ongoing communication with parent(s)
- Obtain advice from neonatologist as required



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Queensland Clinical Guideline: Neonatal seizures Flowchart version: F17.23-1-V1-R22

Abbreviations: **AED:** Anti-epileptic drug(s); **BP:** Blood pressure; **EEG:** Electroencephalogram; **EOGBSD:** Early onset Group B Streptococcal disease; **HIE:** Hypoxic ischaemic encephalopathy; **IV:** Intravenous; **QCG:** Queensland Clinical Guidelines, **>:** Greater than