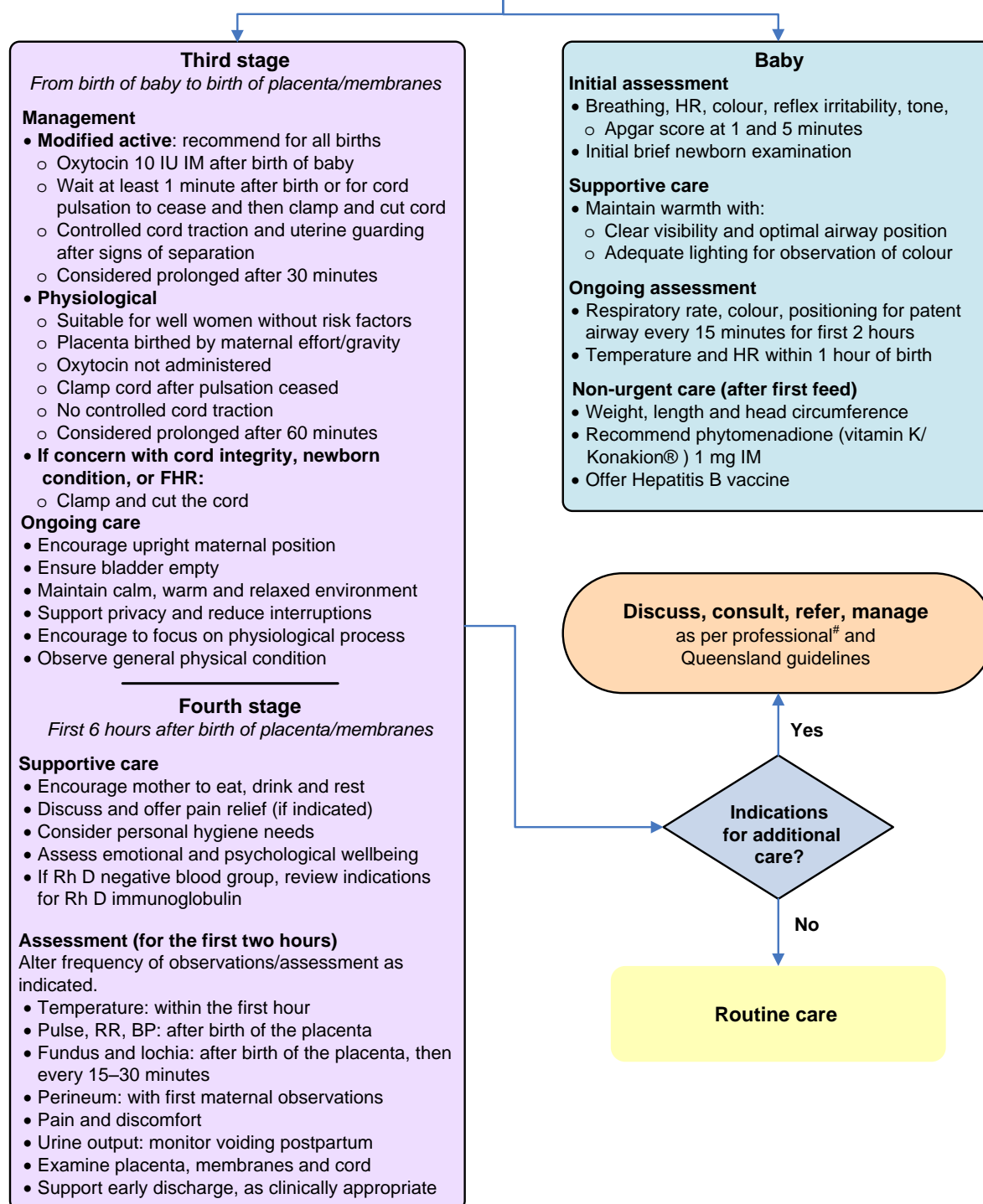


Normal birth: third and fourth stage

Care is woman centred and includes informed choice, consent, privacy and respectful communication. Contemporaneous documentation is essential.

Third and fourth stage in the low risk mother and baby

- Environment that promotes newborn physiological adaptation
- Uninterrupted skin to skin contact for at least 1 hour or after first feed
- Woman and baby are not separated or left alone
- Minimal interference in maternal/baby bonding
- Support to breastfeed (if method of choice)



BP: blood pressure, **FHR:** fetal heart rate, **HR:** heart rate, **IM:** intramuscular, **IU:** international units, **RR:** respiratory rate, **VE:** vaginal examination

*Australian College of Midwives: National Midwifery Guidelines for Consultation and Referral. 4th Edition, Issue 3. 2021

