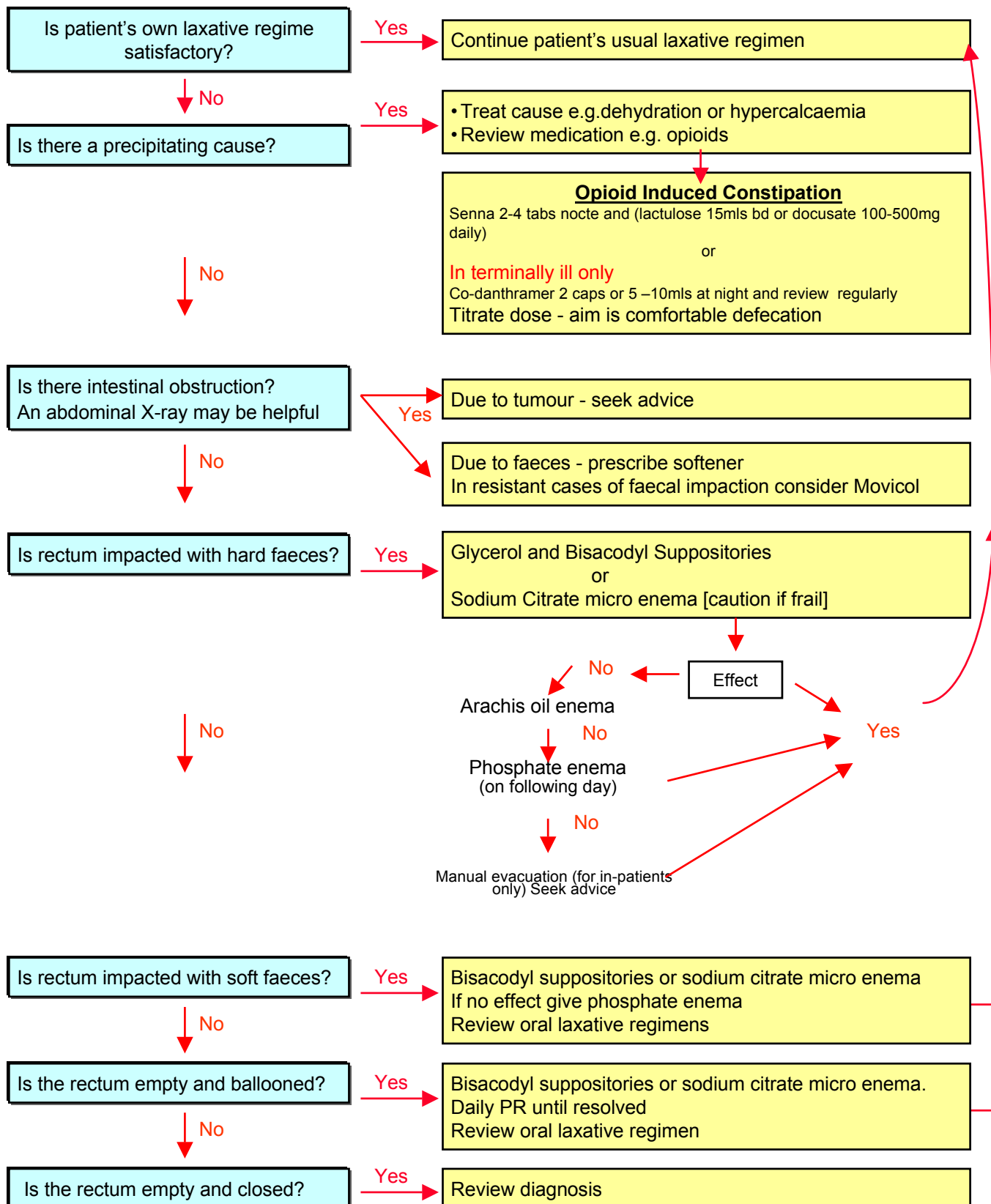


Constipation in Palliative Care

Constipation is common in cancer patients due to general debility, low food and fluid intake, metabolic upset e.g. hypercalcaemia and drug therapy [e.g. anticholinergics, and opioids] and central nervous system lesions e.g. spinal cord compression. Prevention is an important consideration in these conditions.



*NB - if faecal incontinence then risk of "danthron burn" - switch to lactulose / senna combination
If patient has stoma and oral laxatives are ineffective - seek advice from stoma care nurse specialist