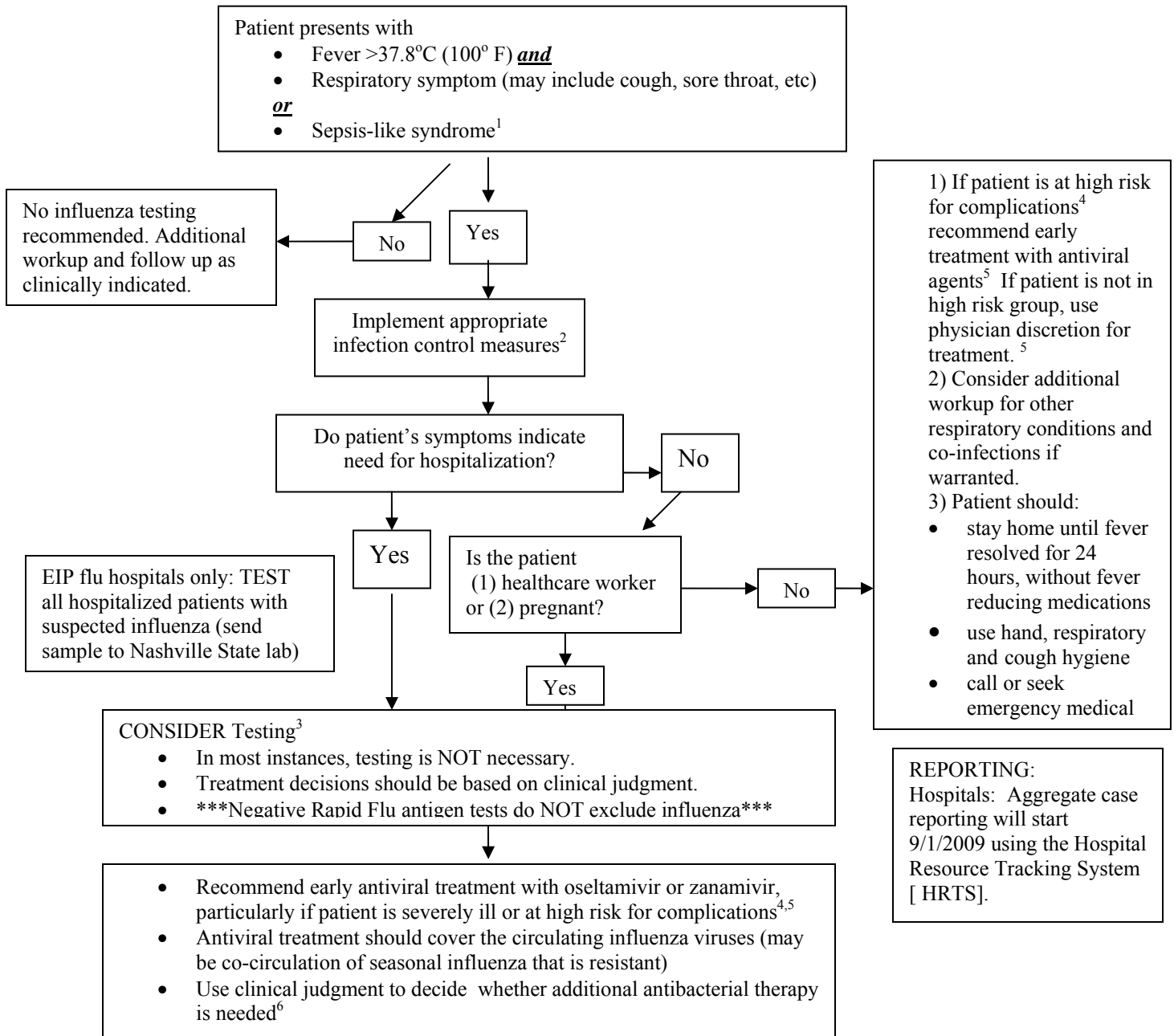


Algorithm for clinicians to assist in decisions on testing and treatment for Influenza (August 2009)



1. Adults ≥ 65 years-old, and persons with compromised immune systems may have atypical presentations.
 2. Information on infection control can be found at: <http://health.state.tn.us/H1N1.htm>
 3. If decision to test is made, then real-time polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) is the preferred laboratory test for identifying pandemic H1N1 (swine flu) virus. The sensitivity of rapid antigen tests varies between 10 to 70% to detect pandemic H1N1 and 20-100% for seasonal influenza. Additional details: http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidance/rapid_testing.htm. Testing for pandemic H1N1 is now performed at commercial laboratories. The TN State lab will perform testing ONLY for specimens from 1) sentinel providers, 2) Emerging Infections Program influenza surveillance hospitals, 3) cases of public health significance (require pre-approval). All specimens received by the State lab from non-EIP or non-SPN sites without pre-approval will be returned to provider. See State lab testing policy for H1N1 (8/17/09) at <http://health.state.tn.us/H1N1.htm> for detailed info, including steps to take to obtain pre-approval.
 4. Persons at high risk of complications: Children <5 years, persons ≥ 65 years; children & adolescents (aged 6 months–18 years) on long-term aspirin therapy & who might be at risk for experiencing Reye syndrome; pregnant women; adults & children who have chronic pulmonary, cardiovascular, hepatic, hematological, neurologic, neuromuscular, or metabolic disorders; adults & children who have immunosuppression (e.g., HIV, immunosuppressive medications); residents of nursing homes & other chronic-care facilities.
 5. Information on use of antiviral agents can be found at: <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/recommendations.htm>
 6. Interim guidance for clinicians is available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidance/>