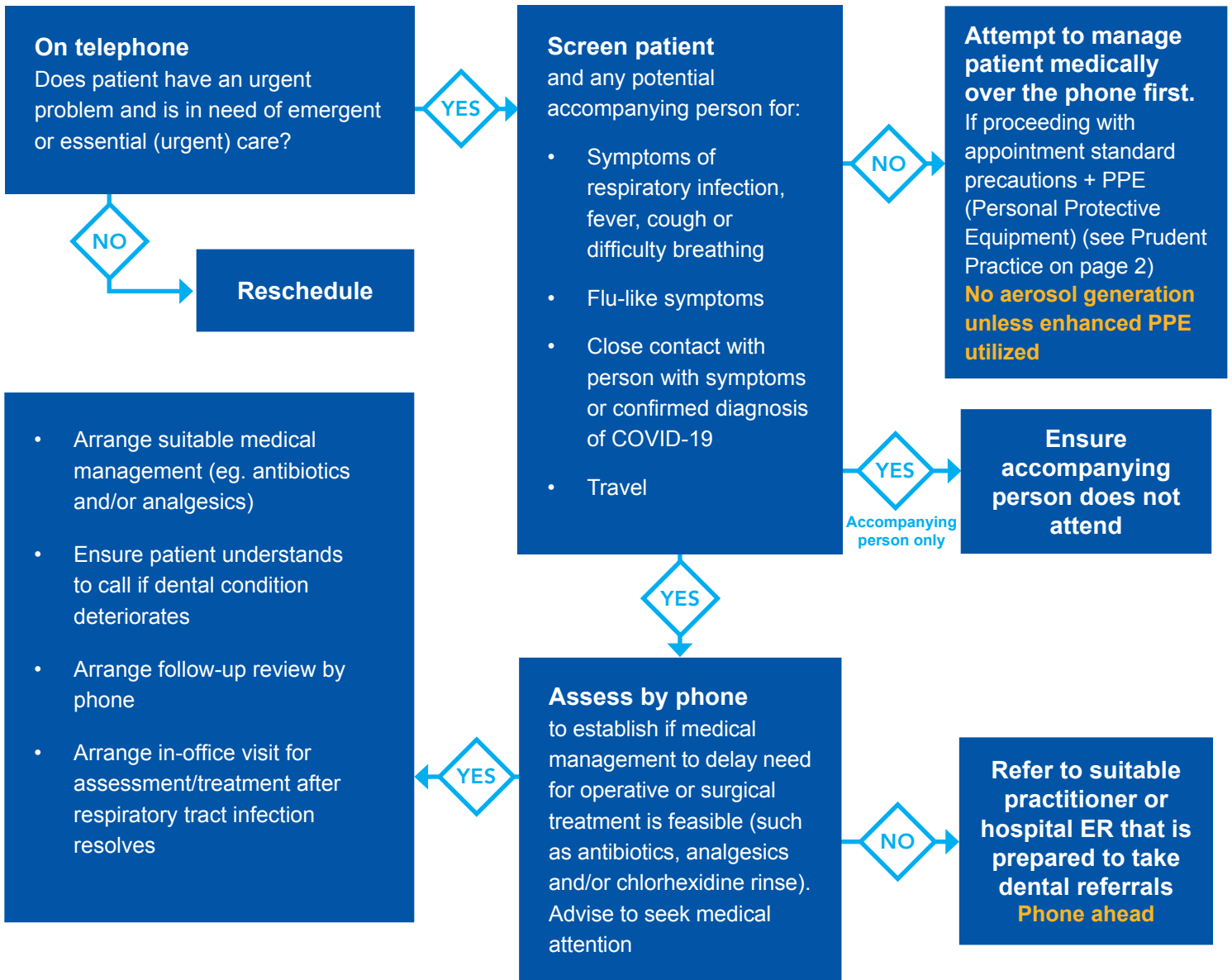


# Algorithm for Non-elective Dental Treatment as of March 27, 2020



 **Helpful Tips on P2**

# Algorithm for Non-elective Dental Treatment as of March 27, 2020

## Screening Questions

- Symptoms of respiratory infection, fever, cough or difficulty breathing
- Flu-like symptoms
- Close contact with person with symptoms or confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19
- Travel
- If patient has COVID-19-like symptoms, they should be advised to seek medical attention:
  - Family physician
  - Public Health Department (811)
  - [www.HealthlinkBC.ca](http://www.HealthlinkBC.ca)
  - Hospital ER (phone ahead)
  - Re-assess when patient has recovered and/or tests negative for COVID-19

## College Guidelines for Emergent Care

*Reference: [www.cdsbc.org](http://www.cdsbc.org)*

Emergency dental care is defined as potentially life-threatening conditions requiring immediate management or treatment to stop ongoing tissue bleeding, alleviate severe pain or infection and include:

- Cellulitis as a result of an uncontrolled infection compromising the airway

- Severe uncontrolled hemorrhage (bleeding)
- Trauma to the orofacial complex especially to facial bones that potentially compromise the patient's airway
- Uncontrolled severe pain
- Uncontrolled infection

## College Guidelines for Essential (Urgent) Care

*Reference: [www.cdsbc.org](http://www.cdsbc.org)*

Essential care is separate from emergency care and focuses on the management and treatment of conditions that require immediate attention to relieve pain and/or risk of infection. These should be treated as minimally invasively as possible. These conditions would include **(BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO):**

- Pericoronitis or third molar pain
- Post-operative osteitis (dry socket dressing changes)
- Abscess with localized pain and swelling
- Treatment required before critical medical procedures can be provided
- Dental trauma involving avulsion or luxation of a tooth
- Tooth fracture resulting in pain or causing soft tissue trauma

## Aerosol generating Procedures

- Use of dental handpiece
- Use of ultrasonic scaler
- Use of air-water syringe
- Use of suction

## Prudent Practice

- Social distancing and frequent cleaning of touched surfaces
- Only one accompanying person and only if necessary. That person should be screened for respiratory disease
- Take patient temperature. Reschedule if >37.5 and tell pt to call 811 or primary health care provider
- Seat promptly
- Regular standard precautions and PPE (Personal Protective Equipment)
- No aerosol generation unless enhanced PPE used (fit-tested N95 masks, disposable gowns, eye protection with goggles or face shield); use rubber dam with high volume suction if possible
- Minimal treatment only