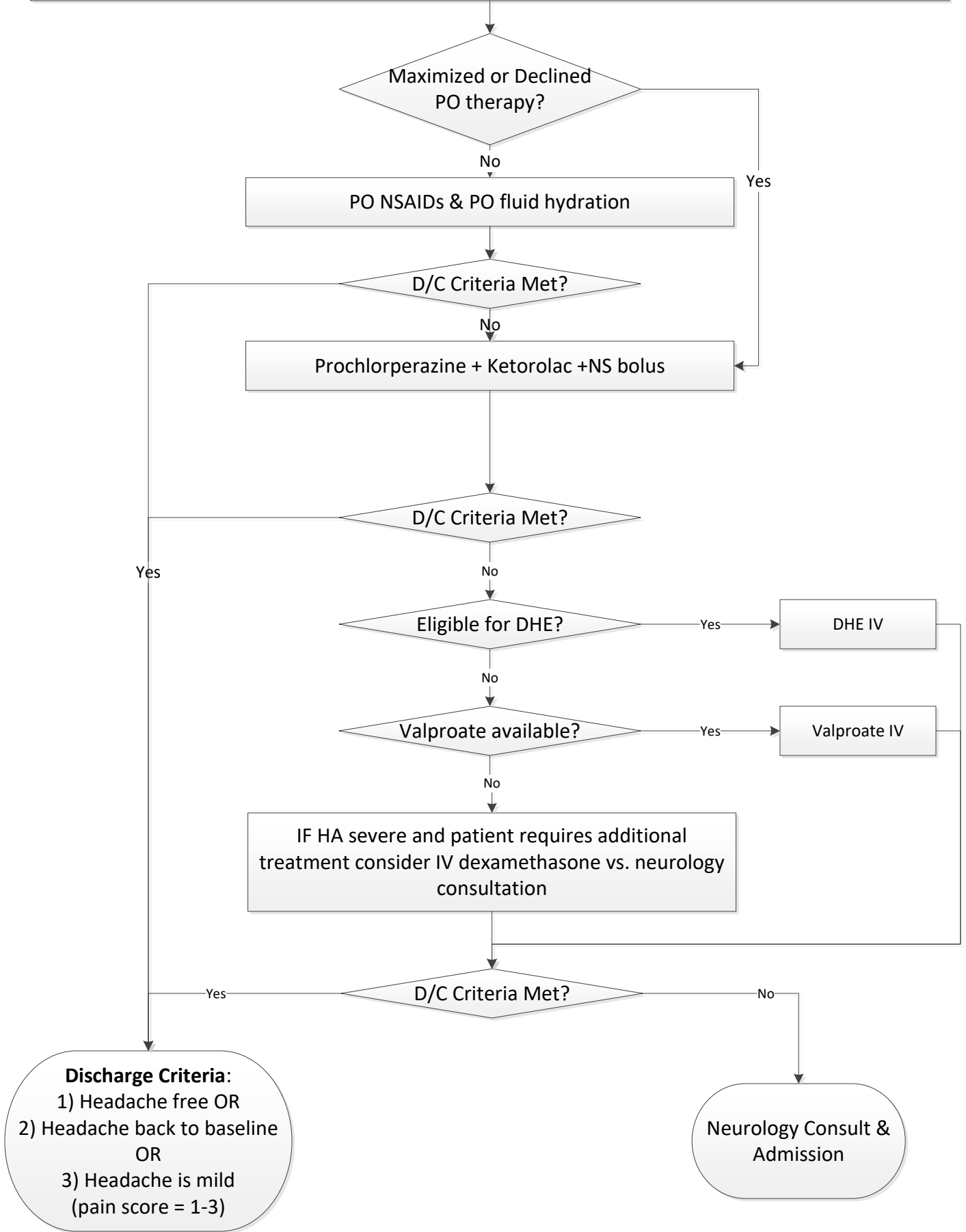


ED Headache Treatment Algorithm

Revision Date: 5/9/2022

For the treatment of migraines, tension headaches, and post-concussive headaches (age 6-21 years)



Reassessments should take place within one hour after each intervention.

Maximized Home PO Therapy:

- Each headache episode treated with > 2 doses of NSAIDs with no more than 3 episodes treated in one week.

Prochlorperazine (Compazine):

- Preferred first-line agent
- 0.15 mg/kg IV; max of 10 mg
- For patients with previous adverse reactions who refuse prochlorperazine, consider:
 - Metoclopramide (Reglan)
 - Give a half-dose of Prochlorperazine
 - Slow the infusion rate by half
 - Have patient walk during infusion if able and not dizzy to help with akathisia

Valproic Acid:

- Patients who are discharged after treatment with valproic acid should be sent home on a 14-day course of oral valproic acid.
- < 10 years OR < 50 kg: Depakote ER 250 mg PO BID x 2 weeks
- >= 10 years AND >=50 kg: Depakote ER 500 mg PO BID x 2 weeks
- Give 1st oral dose in the ED
- If IV Valproic Acid unavailable do not give PO valproic acid in ED or send home with 14-day prescription

Dihydroergotamine (DHE) – See Lexicomp for additional details:

- < 30 kg: 0.5 mg; >= 30 kg: 1 mg
- Administer 50% of dose first then remaining 50% in 30 minutes
- Administer over 3 minutes
- MUST obtain pregnancy test in adolescent females
- Expected Side Effects: nausea, vomiting, flushing, and hypertension
- ALL patients who receive DHE in the ED will be automatically admitted to Neurology, unless the headache has completely resolved and the patient/family prefers to be discharged.
- DHE may only be given at Burnet ED (currently not available in Liberty ED)
- Contraindications: (1) Triptan within 8 hours; (2) DHE within 14 days.
- If patient discharged home, advise no triptan for 24 hours after last dose of DHE

Steroids:

- Should be considered in children with recurrent headaches despite ED treatment (return visits within 72 hours for rebound headache)
 - Dexamethasone 0.6 mg/kg IV x1; max of 10 mg IV (No medications for discharge home)

Discharge Criteria:

- Headache free
- Headache is back to baseline (for patients with chronic daily headaches)
- Headache is mild (pain score = 1-3)