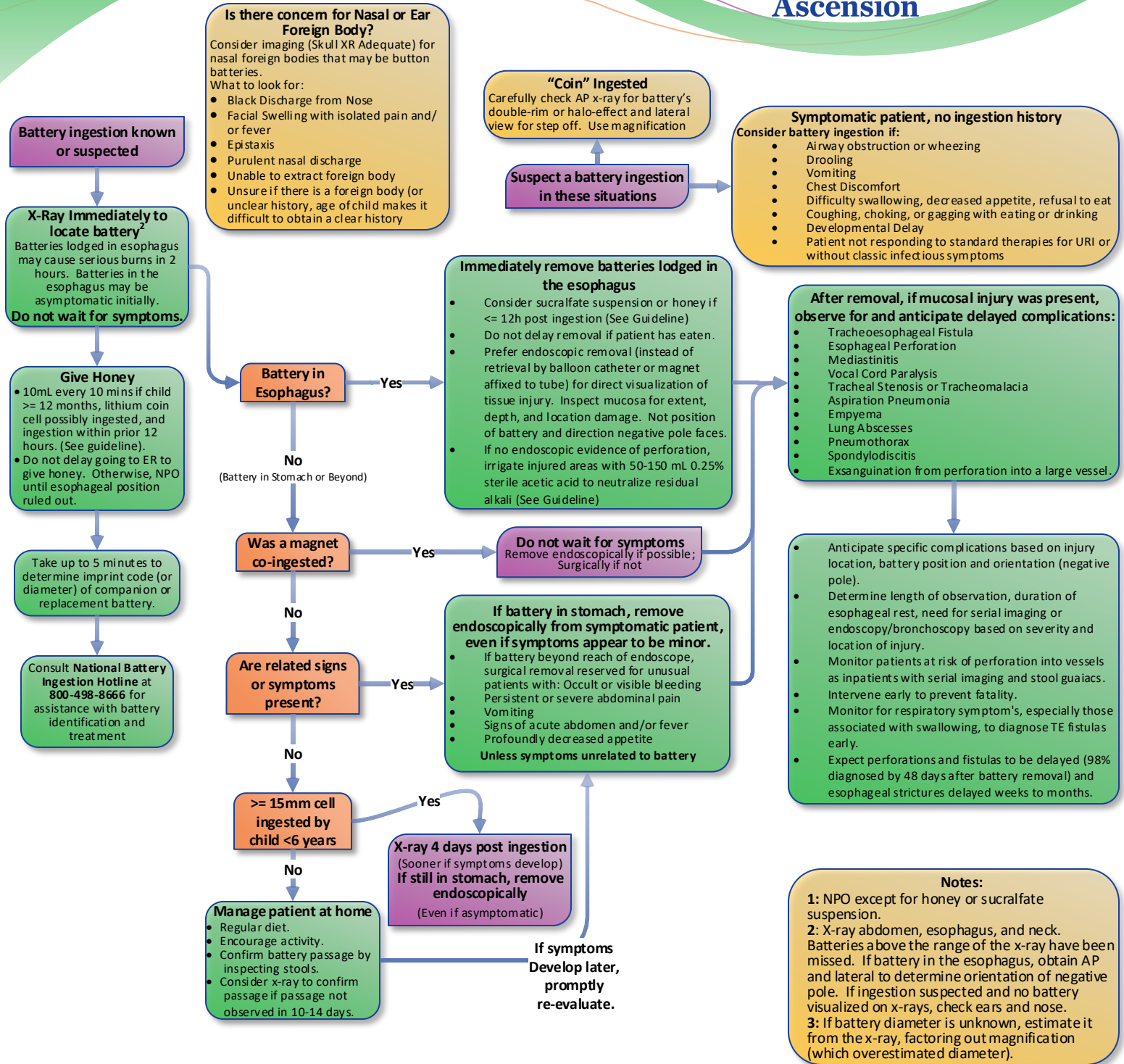


Button Battery Ingestion Management



Tips, Pitfalls, & Caveats

- 3 “N’s”: Negative-Narrow-Necrotic.
 - The negative battery pole, identified as the narrowest side on lateral x-ray, causes the most severe, necrotic injury.
 - The negative battery pole is the side opposite the “+” and without the imprint.
- 20mm lithium coin cell is most frequently involved in esophageal injuries; smaller cells lodge less frequently, but also cause serious injury or death.
- Definitive determination of the battery diameter prior to passage is unlikely in at least 40% of ingestions.
- Assume hearing aid batteries are <12mm.
- Manage ingestion of a hearing aid containing a battery as an ingestion of a small (< 12mm) battery.
- Do not induce vomiting or give cathartics. Both are ineffective.
- Assays of blood or urine for mercury or other battery ingredients are unnecessary.