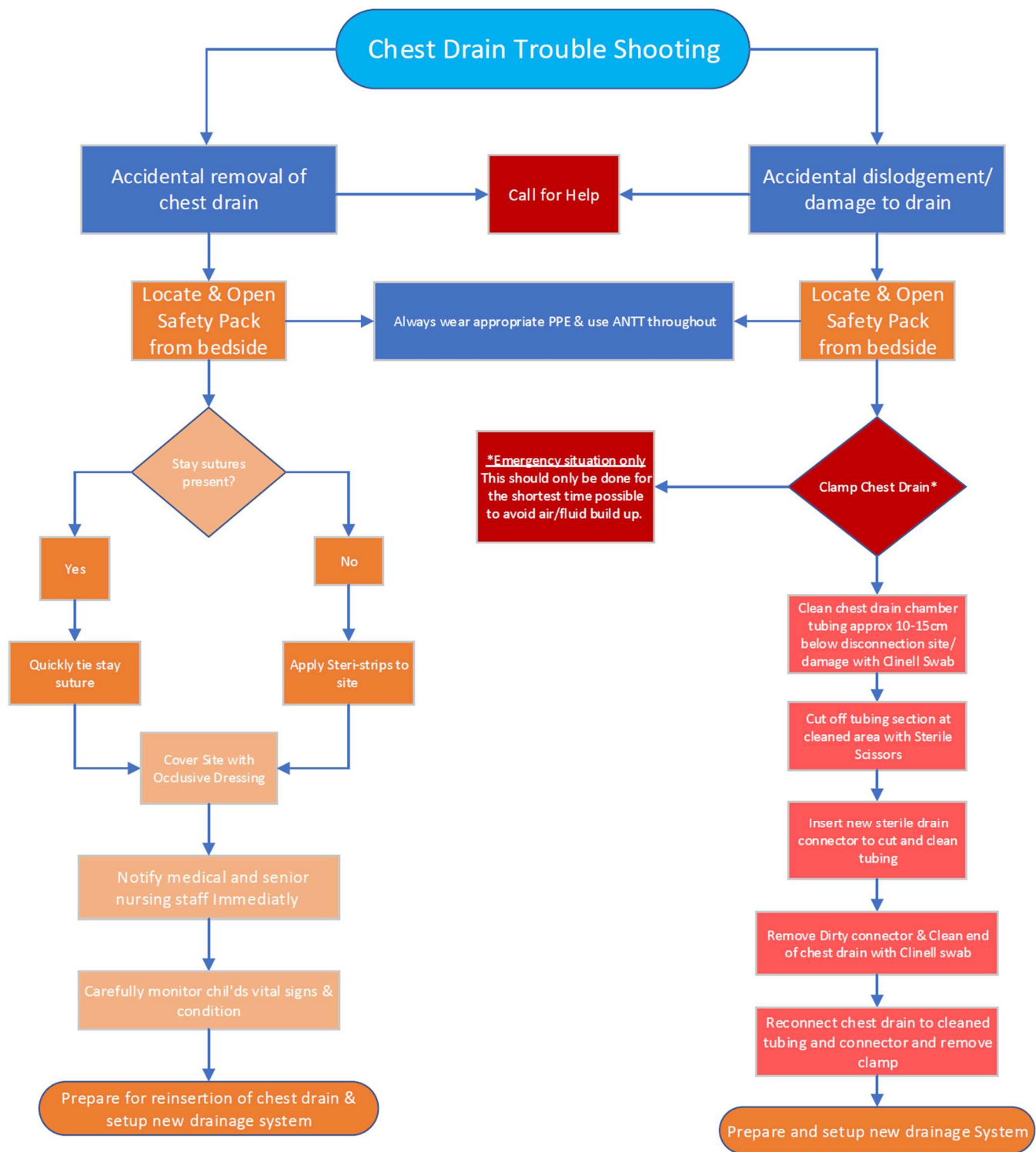


5.2: Chest Drain Trouble Shooting flowchart: unplanned events



Signs of Infection

- Always Monitor chest drain sites and physical losses for signs of infection.
- If any fluid concerns, obtain sample of drain losses as per [Sample Collection Procedure](#) on maintenance guideline.
- If any site concerns, remove dressing, obtain wound swabs then redress as per [Site Re-dressing Procedure](#) on maintenance guideline.
- Regularly obtain vital signs and monitor patient closely for signs of infection.

Signs of Blockage

- Always Monitor chest drain losses regularly as per guidance*.
- Ensure chest drain tubing is not looped or coiled and laying along bed vertically.
- Monitor for any clot formations and signs of blockages.
- Inform senior nursing and medical staff if any indication of blockage.
- Avoid the use mechanical rollers for stripping of chest drains and 'milking' of chest drains should only ever be done by surgical team/consultant in extreme circumstances.

*See '[Suggested frequency](#)' in guideline.