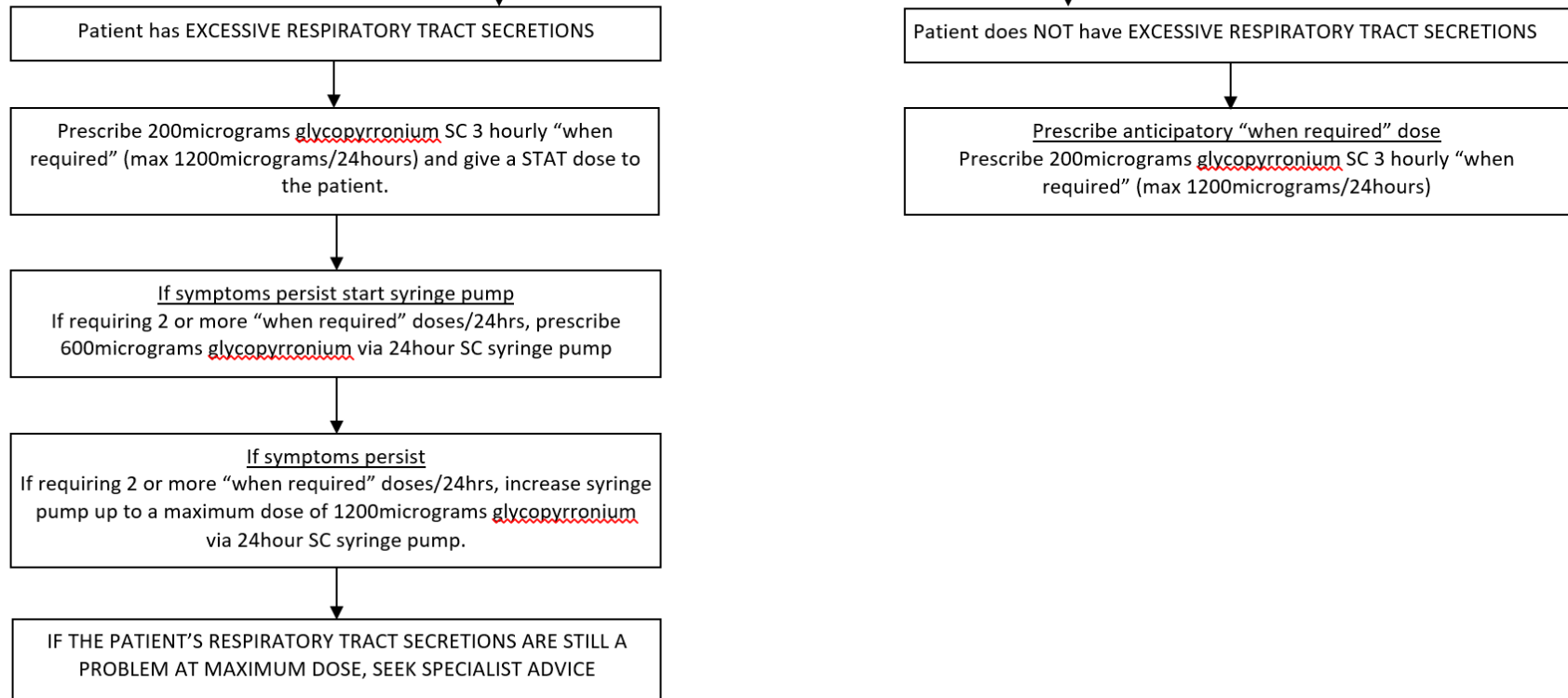


EXCESSIVE RESPIRATORY TRACT SECRETIONS

(In end of life patients unable to take oral medication)



Notes:

- These medicines will not clear existing secretions. Start when symptoms first appear.
- Treatment is only effective in 50-60% of patients – more likely to be effective if secretions are due to unswallowed saliva.
- Many relatives are satisfied by explanation alone.
- A conscious patient treated with these drugs will be aware of an uncomfortably dry mouth.

Hyoscine butylbromide may be used as an alternative

“When required” dose

Prescribe 20mg hyoscine butylbromide SC 3 hourly “when required” (max 120mg/24hours)

Regular dose

If requiring 2 or more “when required” doses/24hrs start 60mg hyoscine butylbromide via 24hour SC syringe pump. Can increase up to a maximum of 120mg 24hours.