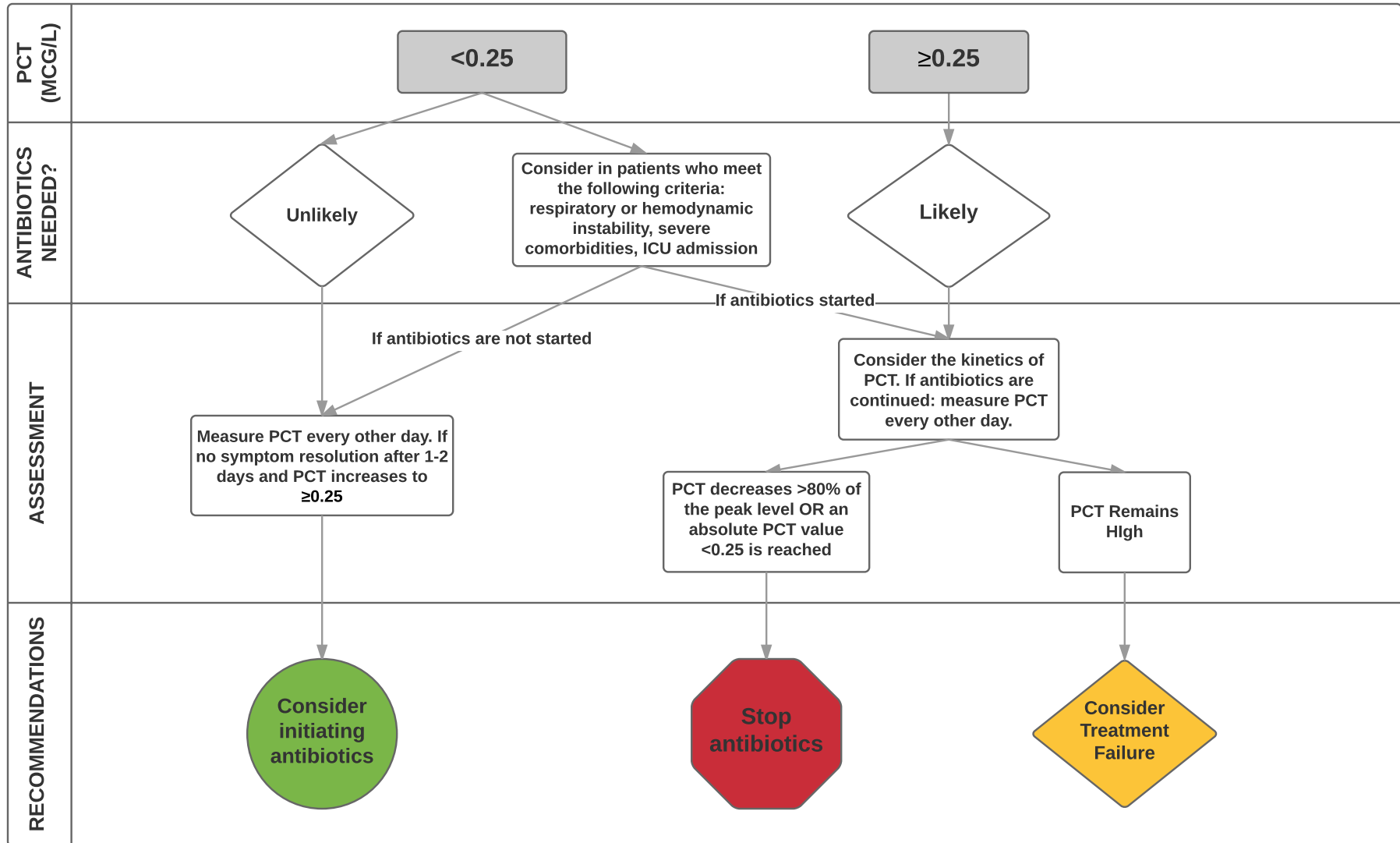


PCT is an inflammatory marker that is sensitive for bacterial infections. PCT levels can be used in conjunction with clinical assessment to guide antimicrobial therapy initiation and discontinuation. PCT level may be obtained at baseline (first day of suspicion of active infection) and repeated 8 hours later in lower respiratory tract infection. PCT levels should be ordered in addition to other appropriate infectious workup (labs, imaging, cultures, etc.).



PCT: procalcitonin

Reference:

Schuetz P, Werner A, Mueller B. Procalcitonin for diagnosis of infection and guide to antibiotic decisions: past, present and future. BMC Medicine 2011; 9:107; Schuetz P, Chiappa V, Briel M, et al. Procalcitonin algorithms for antibiotic therapy decisions: A systematic review of randomized controlled trials and recommendations for clinical algorithms. Arch Intern Med 2011;171(15):1322-