

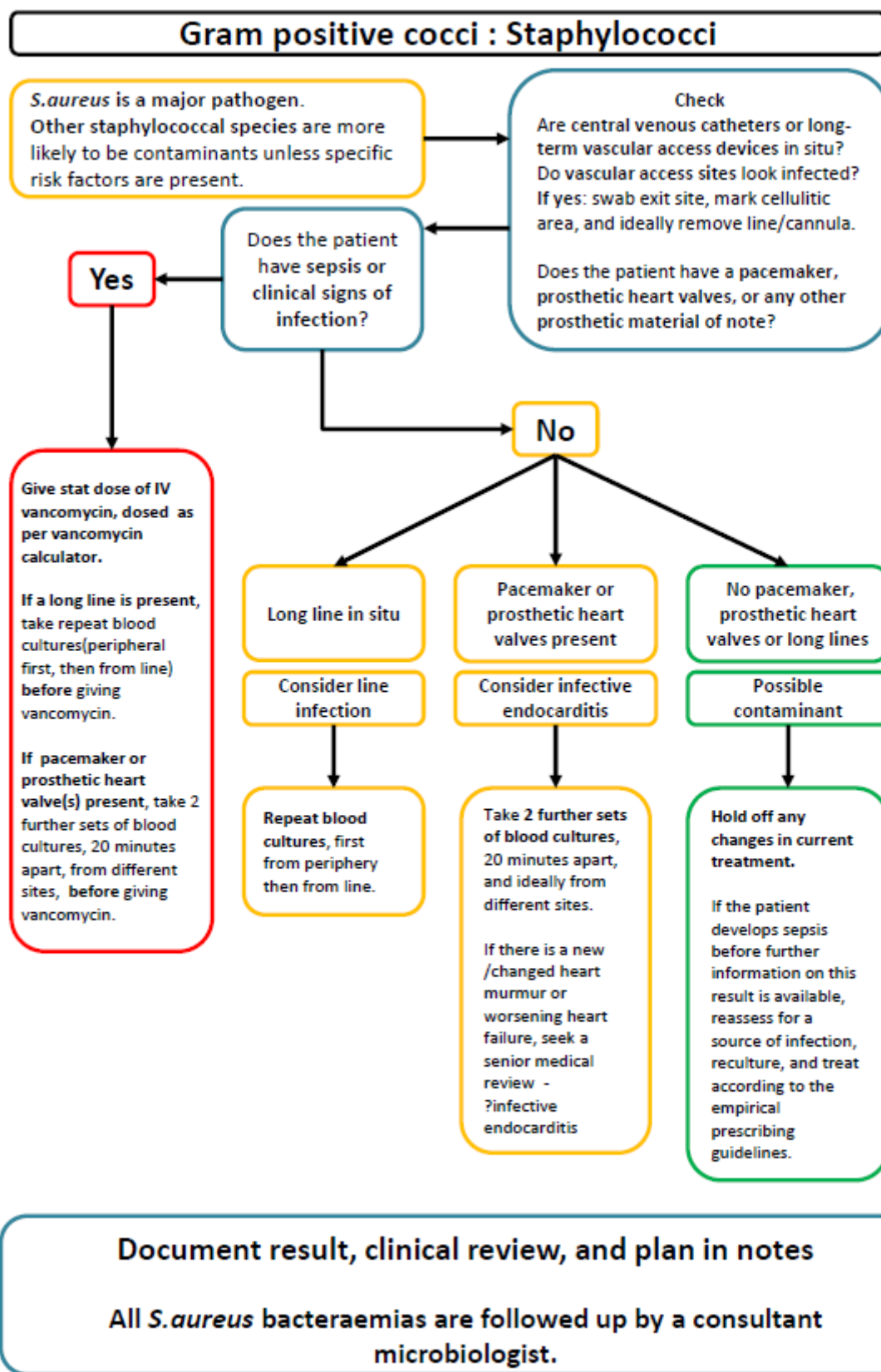
Guidance on initial management of positive blood cultures in adults ≥ 16 years old

For ANP and medical staff

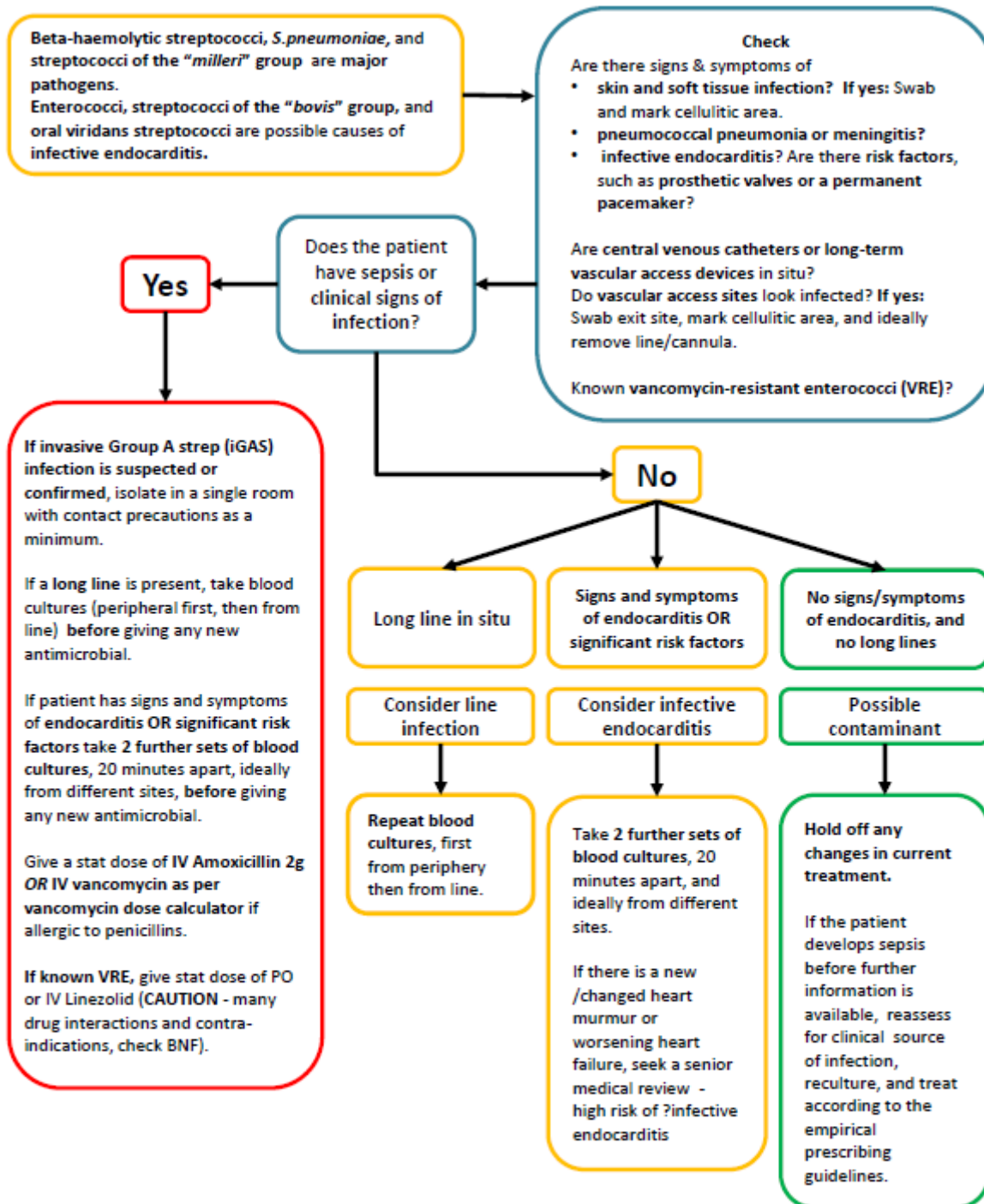
This document contains information to guide initial management of new positive blood culture results. It can not cover all eventualities, but addresses the most important and frequently encountered scenarios.

Note: Gram positive cocci can not always reliably be differentiated into staphylococci or streptococci on microscopy alone. In such situations, please refer to both flowcharts.

All significant blood stream infections will be followed up by the Consultant Microbiology team, either by telephone or in person.



Gram positive cocci: Streptococci



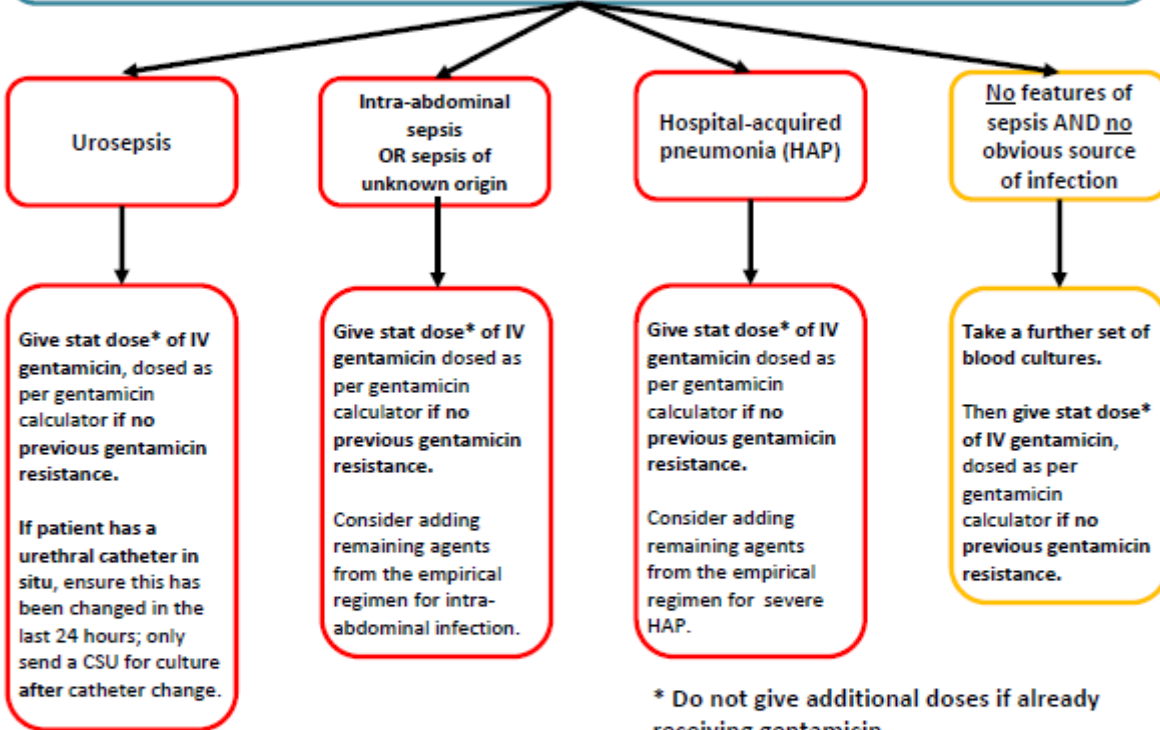
Document result, clinical review, and plan in notes.

Significant isolates are followed up by a by a consultant microbiologist who will advise on further investigations and duration of treatment.

Gram negative rod/bacillus

Always consider result to be significant.
E.coli is the most common gram negative organism in blood cultures.

Check
 Review all previous microbiological culture results for gram negative organisms **RESISTANT** to gentamicin. Are there any localising signs or symptoms of infection?
 Most frequent sources are urinary or intra-abdominal sepsis; hospital-acquired pneumonia (HAP) is less common.



If there is a contra-indication to gentamicin use, ask for senior clinical review.
 If the blood culture was drawn after ≥2 doses of gentamicin, and there are no known gentamicin-resistant organisms, review for deep seated infections requiring (surgical) source control. **If the patient is septic or in septic shock ask for urgent senior clinical review.**
 If previous cultures show gentamicin-resistant gram negatives and no other suitable IV antimicrobials were reported, contact the duty microbiologist for advice.

Document result, clinical review, and plan in notes.
All cases of gram negative bacteraemia are followed up by a consultant microbiologist who will advise on further investigations and duration of treatment.

