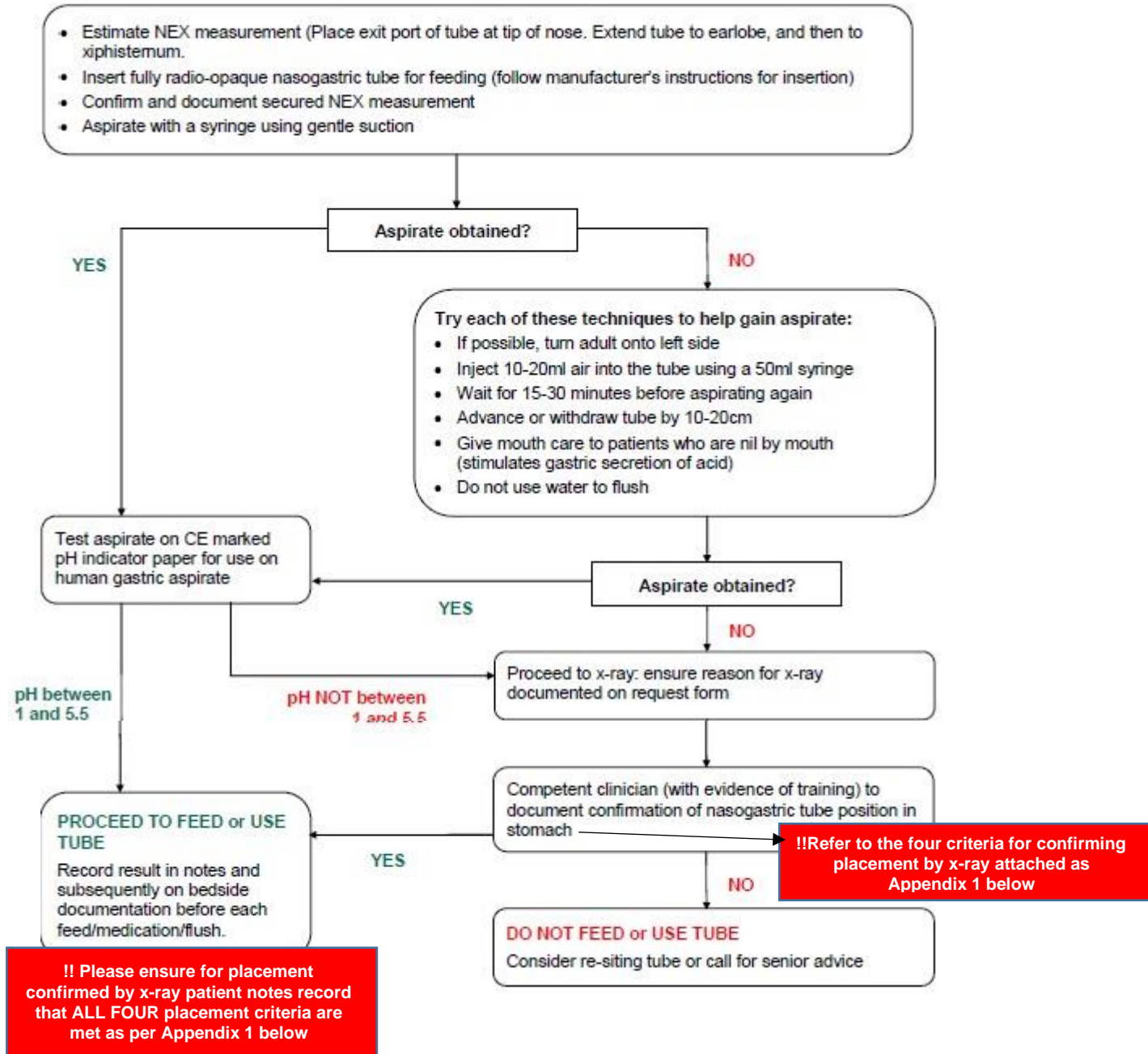


Decision tree for nasogastric tube placement checks in **ADULTS**

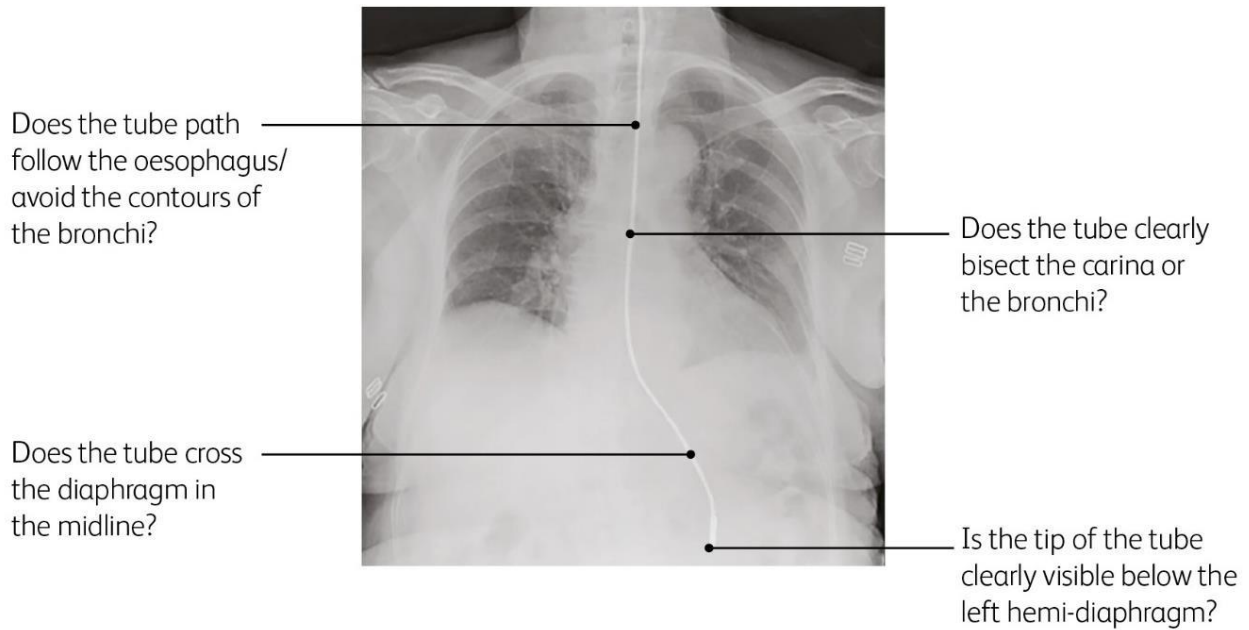


A pH of between 1 and 5.5 is reliable confirmation that the tube is not in the lung, however it does not confirm gastric placement as there is a small chance the tube tip may sit in the oesophagus where it carries a higher risk of aspiration. If this is any concern, the patient should proceed to x-ray in order to confirm tube position.

Where pH readings fall between 5 and 6 it is recommended that a second competent person checks the reading or retests.

Full policy available at: http://intranet.sath.nhs.uk/document_library/ViewPDFDocument.asp?DocumentID=7084

Appendix 1: The four criteria for confirming gastric placement of an NGT on X-ray



If all four criteria are met please document the following information in the patient notes:

I have confirmed the patients name, hospital number and date and time of x-ray to be **xxxx**

I confirm that the x-ray shows that:

The tube follows the line of the oesophagus/avoids the contours of the bronchi

The tube bisects the carina

The tube crosses the diaphragm in the midline and

The tip of the tube is visible below the left hemidiaphragm.