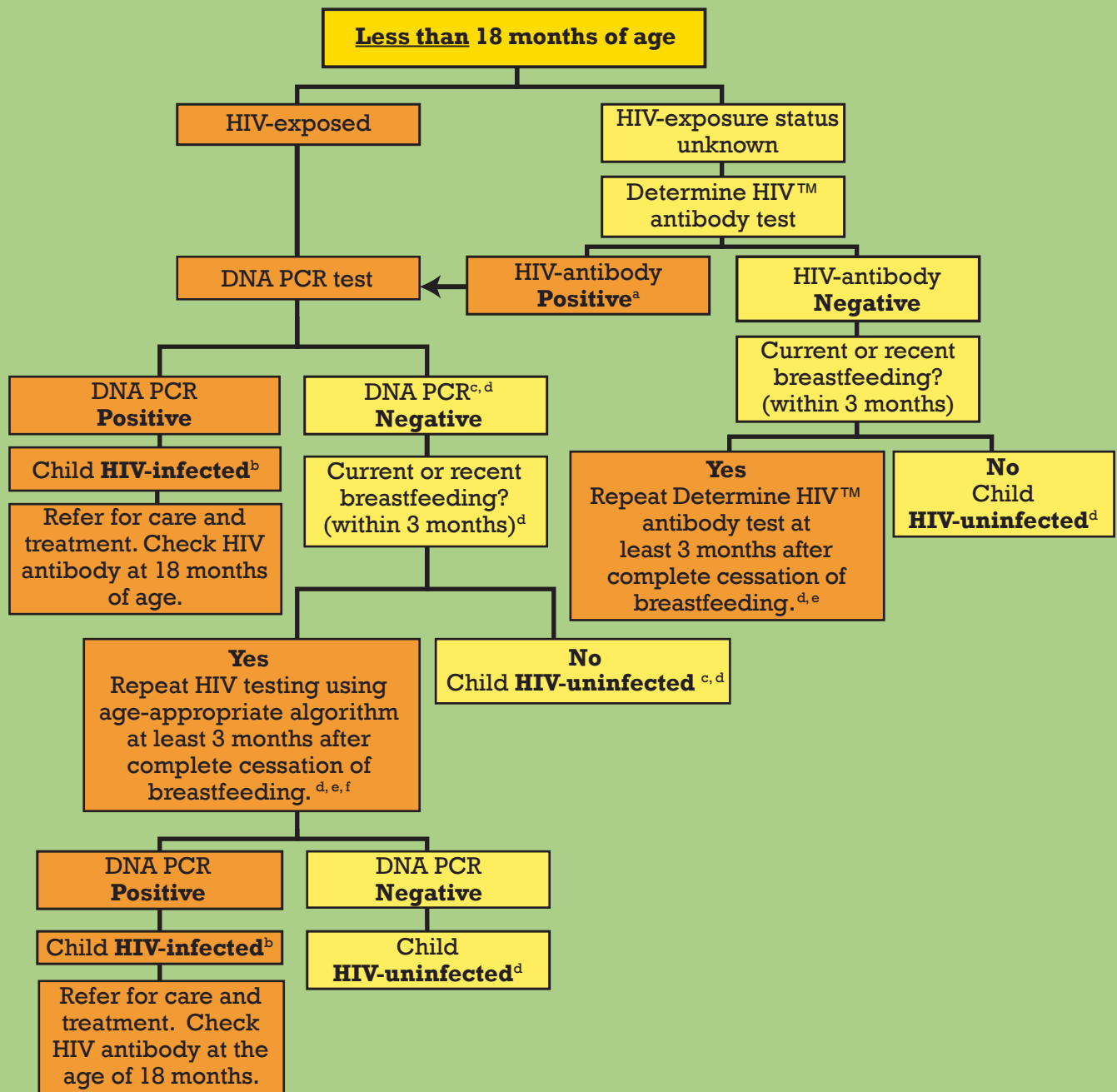




HIV Testing Algorithm for Children Less Than 18 Months of Age



- a A positive antibody test in this age group indicates HIV exposure (*mother is HIV-infected*).
- b A positive virological test at any age indicates HIV infection. Infants 12 months and younger should receive treatment immediately, regardless of CD4 count. HIV antibody testing is done at the age of 18 months as a confirmatory test.
- c DNA PCR testing is maximally sensitive after the age of 4-6 weeks. A negative DNA PCR test conducted before the age of four weeks should be repeated 1) immediately if the child is symptomatic; or 2) after the age of four weeks.
- d If a child experiences symptoms suggestive of HIV, HIV testing should be repeated (even if child has not stopped breastfeeding).
- e A breastfeeding child remains at risk of HIV infection if the mother is HIV-infected or becomes HIV-infected during the breastfeeding period. It is recommended that breastfeeding children be re-tested for HIV three months after complete cessation of breastfeeding.
- f Use DNA PCR if less than 18 months of age and HIV antibody test if 18 months of age or older.



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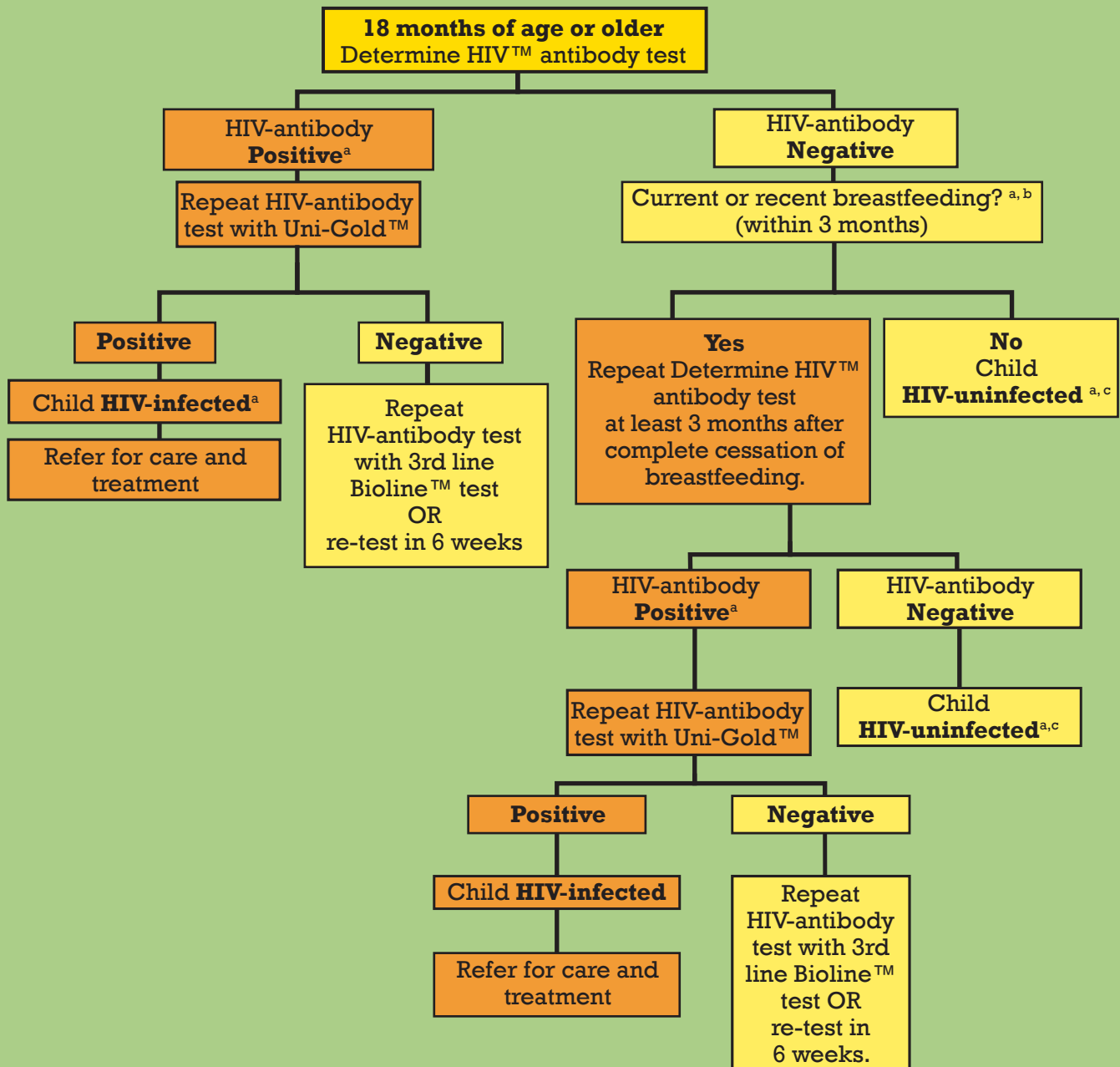
University Teaching Hospital
Department of Paediatrics & Child Health



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HIV Testing Algorithm for Children 18 Months of Age or Older



- ^a A positive antibody test for a child 18 months or older should be confirmed with a second HIV antibody test. A positive confirmatory test indicates HIV-infection. A single negative antibody test for a child 18 months or older *who has not breastfed in the past three months* excludes HIV infection.
- ^b A breastfeeding child remains at risk of HIV-infection if the mother is HIV-infected or becomes HIV-infected during the breastfeeding period. It is recommended that breastfeeding children be re-tested for HIV three months after complete cessation of breastfeeding.
- ^c If a child experiences symptoms suggestive of HIV, testing should be repeated (even if child has not stopped breastfeeding).



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