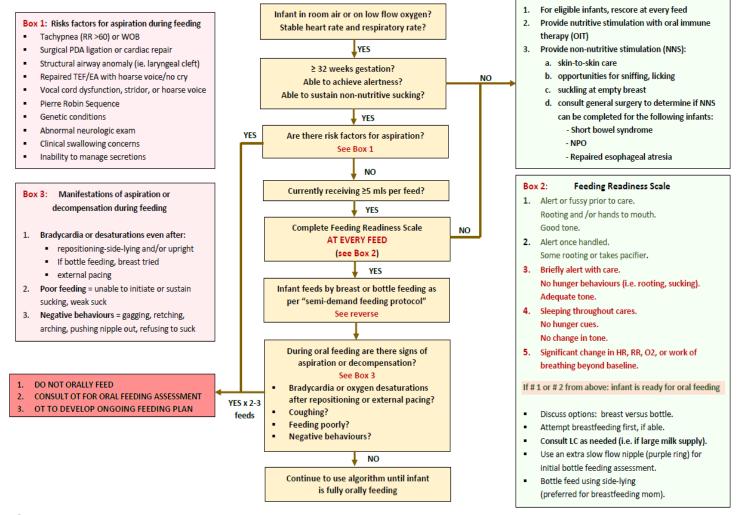


## SICKKIDS NICU ORAL FEEDING DECISION TREE

## Purpose: To support decision-making for initiating and advancing oral feeding



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## Semi-Demand Feeding Protocol

## At each feeding:

- 1. Gently wake infant and offer a soother or finger for non-nutritive sucking.
- 2. If possible, allow infant to suck for a few minutes prior to assessing for oral feeding.
  - If infant responds by remaining in alert/awake state (even if eyes are closed) and/or presents with non-nutritive sucking, (scores 1 or 2 on feeding readiness scale), offer the breast or bottle.
  - If the infant does not stay awake, (scores 3 or 4 on feeding readiness scale), feed by NG.
- 3. Feed orally until infant stops sucking/swallowing and does not voluntarily resume sucking/swallowing or up to their TFI or for no longer than 20 minutes.
- 4. Give remainder of the feed (if any) by NG.
- 5. Repeat the process at infant's next feed or prior if the infant shows signs of feeding readiness (rooting, sucking).
- 6. If infant is being breast fed and has a maximum allowed intake, weigh before and after breast feeding.
- 7. If taking near full TFI by mouth, discuss demand feeding with medical team.