




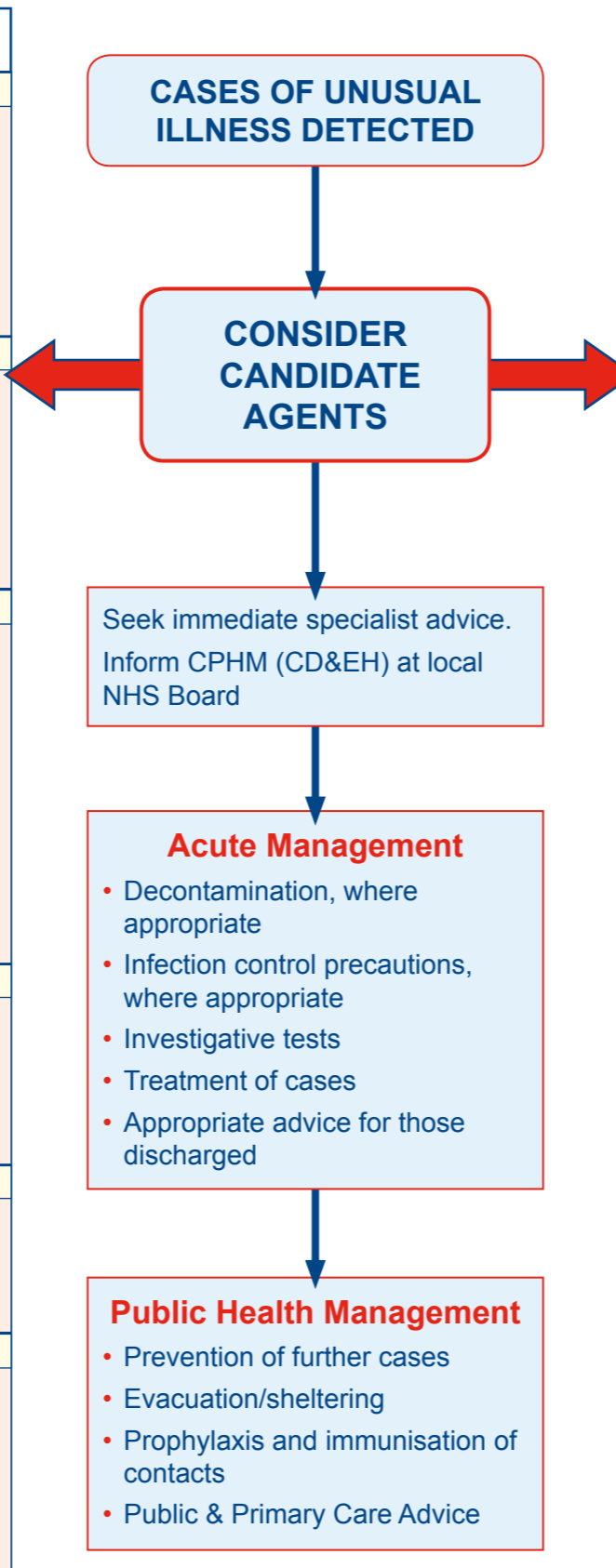


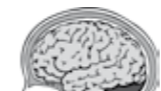



# Unusual Illness and CBRN Agents

## Recognition and Action, Symptoms and Syndromes

Signs & Symptoms of Chemical & Radiological Agent Exposure		
	<b>Eyes</b>	
	Pain, irritation	» » vesicants, nerve agents, cyanides, pulmonary / choking agents
	Dilated pupils	» » cyanide (high exposure)
	Pin-point pupils	» » nerve agents (possible ricin ingestion)
	Dimming of vision	» » nerve agents
	Tearing	» » vesicants, pulmonary / choking agents
Swelling	» » vesicants	
	<b>Gastrointestinal</b>	
	Nausea	» » cyanides, ricin, vesicants, possibly pulmonary / choking agents, radiological
	Diarrhoea	» » nerve agents, cyanides, ricin (bloody), radiological
	Vomiting	» » ricin (ingestion), cyanides, possibly pulmonary / choking agents, radiological
	Abdominal pain	» » ricin (ingestion)
	GI Haemorrhage	» » ricin (ingestion)
	<b>Respiratory</b>	
	Excess secretions	» » nerve agents
	Cough	» » vesicants, pulmonary / choking agents
	Sloughing	» » vesicants
	Pulmonary oedema	» » vesicants, pulmonary / choking agents, ricin (inhalation)
	Tightness of chest	» » phosgene, pulmonary / choking agents, nerve agents
	Shortness of breath, wheezing	» » pulmonary / choking agents, vesicants
	Hyperventilation	» » cyanides
	Haemoptysis	» » pulmonary / choking agents
	Respiratory failure	» » nerve agents, cyanides, ricin (inhalation)
	<b>Cardiac</b>	
	Hypotension	» » ricin, pulmonary / choking agents
	Arrhythmias	» » nerve agents
	Palpitations	» » cyanides
	Cessation of heartbeat	» » cyanide (high exposure)
	Circulatory collapse	» » ricin (inhalation)
	<b>Skin</b>	
	Burning, itching, redness	» » vesicants, pulmonary / choking agents
	Blistering	» » vesicants
	Sweating	» » nerve agents, ricin
	Fever	» » ricin, radiological
	<b>CNS/PNS</b>	
	Dizziness	» » cyanides
	Tremor	» » nerve agents
	Muscle cramp	» » nerve agents
	Weakness	» » nerve agents
Seizures	» » nerve agents (high exposure)	
Headache	» » cyanides, radiological	



Symptoms & Syndromes - Unusual Illness			
Syndrome	Common Causes	Unusual Causes	
<b>Respiratory</b>			
 Raised temp Shortness of breath or Dyspnoea Raised pulse	Pneumonia Influenza	Inhalation Anthrax Glanders Meliodosis Pneumonic Plague Pneumonic Tularaemia	
<b>Gastro-intestinal</b>			
 Nausea Vomiting Diarrhoea	Common viral and bacterial foodborne pathogens <i>E. coli</i> O157	Ingestion Anthrax	
<b>CNS</b>			
 Paralysis/muscle Weakness Encephalitis Confusion Unconscious	Stroke Meningitis Typhoid Guillain Barre Syndrome	Botulism VHF	
<b>Skin and Lymphatic</b>			
 Rash Skin lesions Lymphoedema	Chickenpox Measles Rubella Parvovirus Meningitis Herpes simplex Typhoid	<b>Rash</b> Smallpox VHF <b>Skin lesions</b> Tularaemia Cutaneous Anthrax <b>Lymphoedema</b> Bubonic Plague Tularaemia	

Refer to the fold-out Clinical Action Guide and CBRN Reference Resource for information on signs & symptoms, onset, diagnostic tests and treatment.

If a patient presents with an unusual or unexplained illness it is essential that further specialist advice is obtained as soon as possible.

Contact your local NHS Board (Public Health / Health Protection Unit) or Health Protection Scotland (HPS) Tel: 0141 300 1100 or 'out of hours': 0141 211 3600 Fax: 0141 300 1170, or the National Poisons Information Service (NPIS) Tel: 0844 892 0111