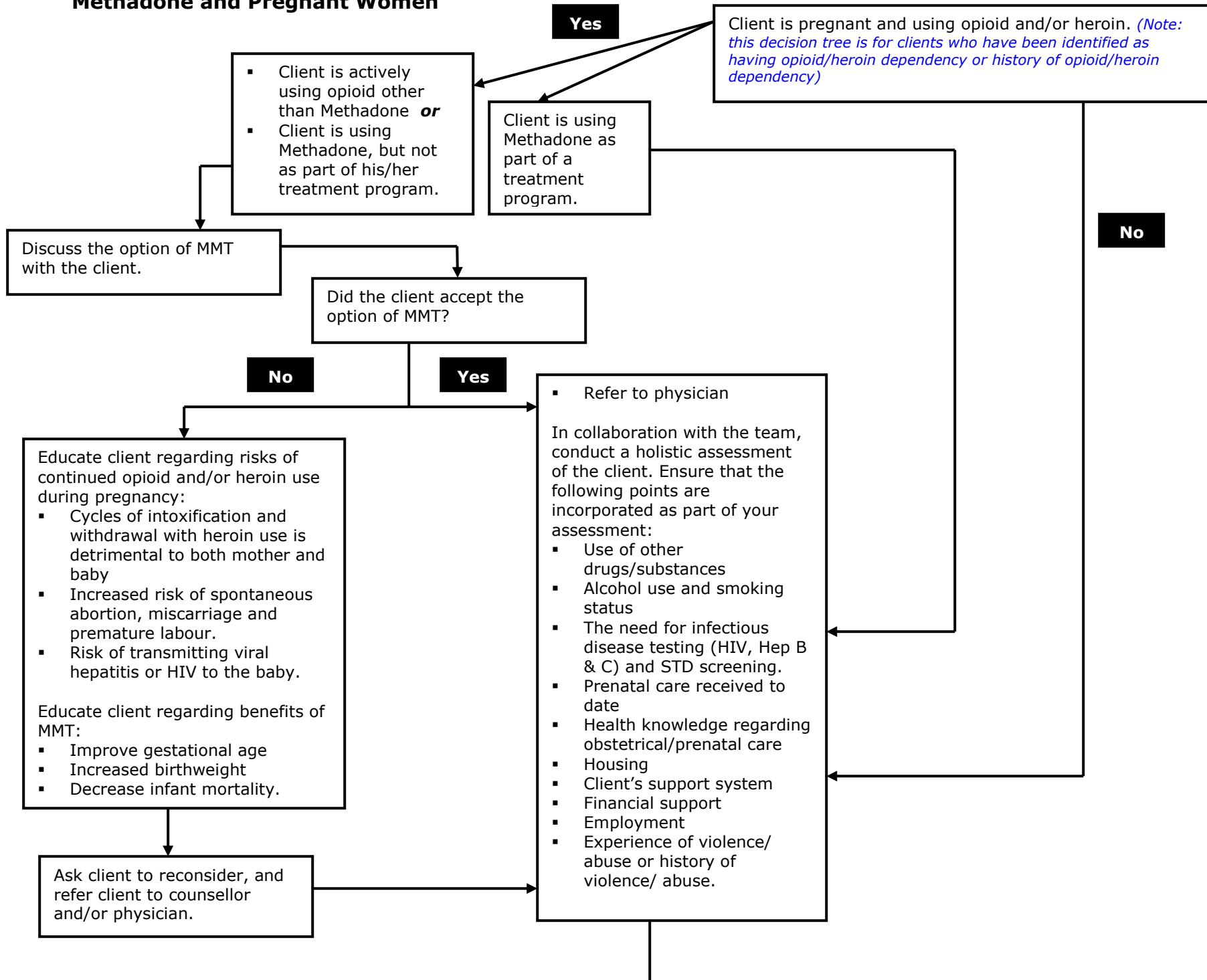
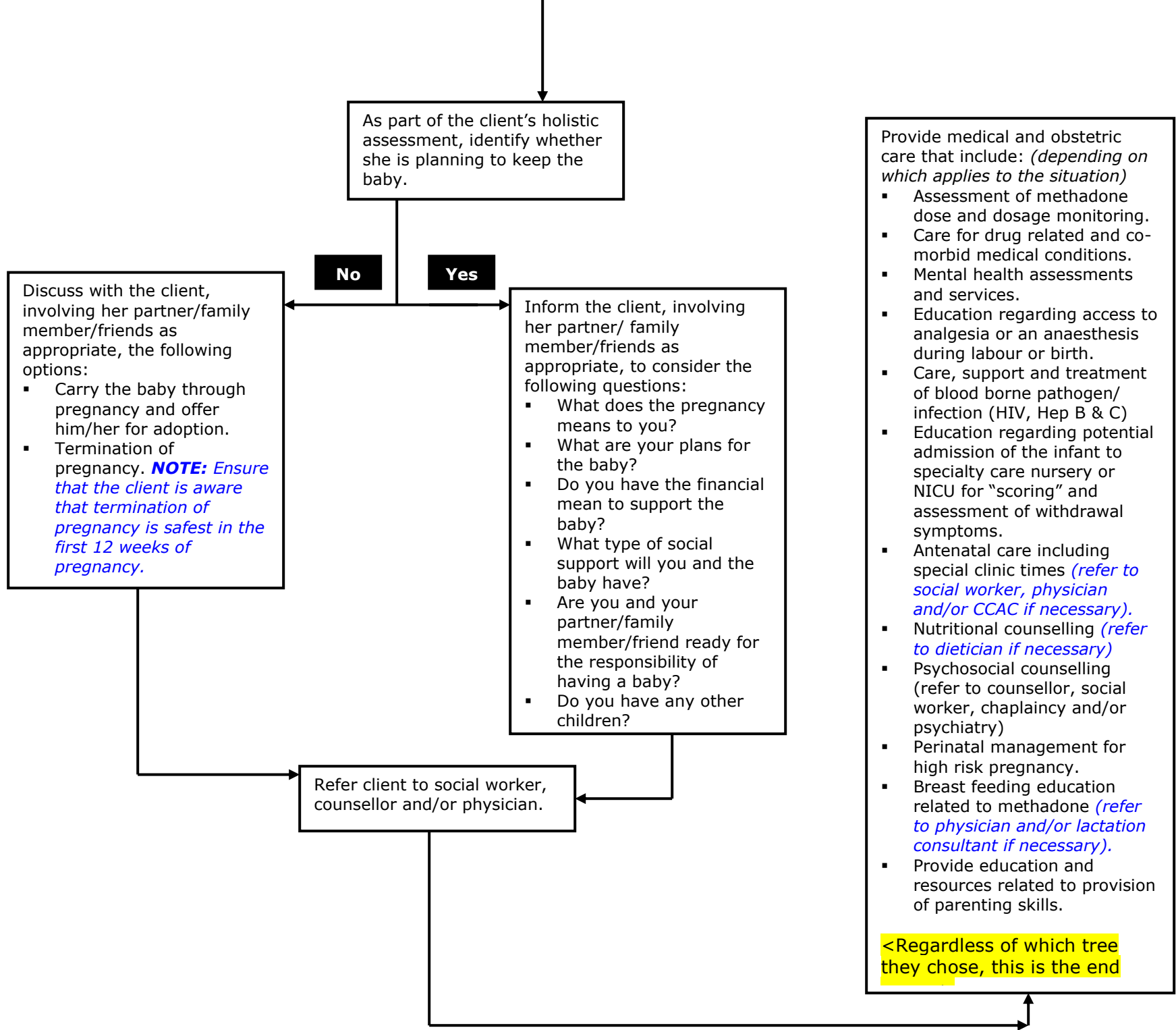


# Methadone and Pregnant Women





As part of the client's holistic assessment, identify whether she is planning to keep the baby.

**No**      **Yes**

Discuss with the client, involving her partner/family member/friends as appropriate, the following options:

- Carry the baby through pregnancy and offer him/her for adoption.
- Termination of pregnancy. **NOTE: Ensure that the client is aware that termination of pregnancy is safest in the first 12 weeks of pregnancy.**

Inform the client, involving her partner/ family member/friends as appropriate, to consider the following questions:

- What does the pregnancy mean to you?
- What are your plans for the baby?
- Do you have the financial means to support the baby?
- What type of social support will you and the baby have?
- Are you and your partner/family member/friend ready for the responsibility of having a baby?
- Do you have any other children?

Refer client to social worker, counsellor and/or physician.

Provide medical and obstetric care that include: *(depending on which applies to the situation)*

- Assessment of methadone dose and dosage monitoring.
- Care for drug related and co-morbid medical conditions.
- Mental health assessments and services.
- Education regarding access to analgesia or an anaesthesia during labour or birth.
- Care, support and treatment of blood borne pathogen/ infection (HIV, Hep B & C)
- Education regarding potential admission of the infant to specialty care nursery or NICU for "scoring" and assessment of withdrawal symptoms.
- Antenatal care including special clinic times *(refer to social worker, physician and/or CCAC if necessary)*.
- Nutritional counselling *(refer to dietician if necessary)*
- Psychosocial counselling *(refer to counsellor, social worker, chaplaincy and/or psychiatry)*
- Perinatal management for high risk pregnancy.
- Breast feeding education related to methadone *(refer to physician and/or lactation consultant if necessary)*.
- Provide education and resources related to provision of parenting skills.

<Regardless of which tree they chose, this is the end

## References

<this could be incorporated in the last/end screen, or be on a separate screen>

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Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (2009). *Supporting Client on Methadone Maintenance Treatment (MMT)*. Toronto, ON: Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario.