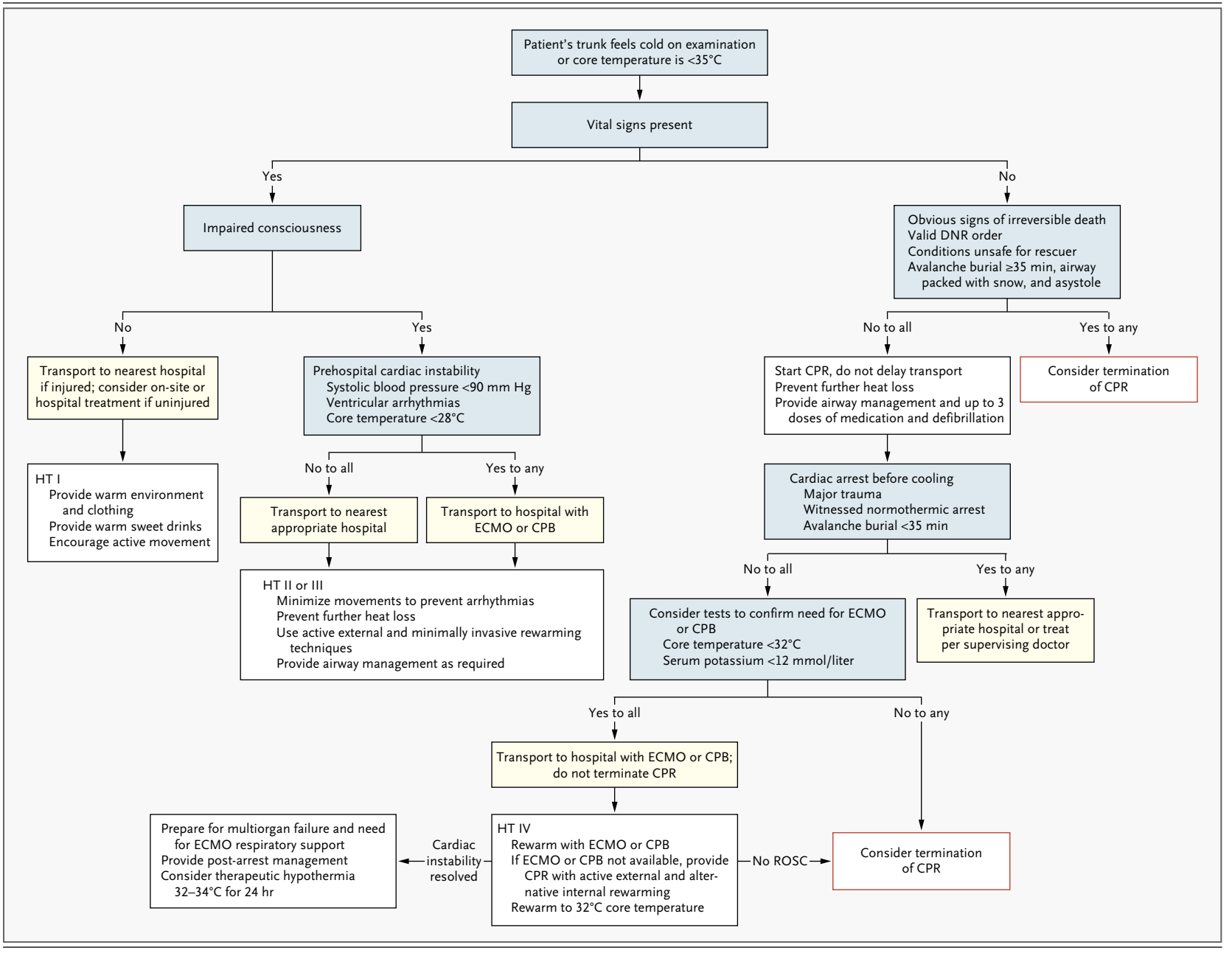
Patient's trunk feels cold on examination or core temperature is <35°C
Vital signs present
Yes
No
Impaired consciousness
Obvious signs of irreversible death
Valid DNR order
Conditions unsafe for rescuer
Avalanche burial ≥35 min, airway packed with snow, and asystole
No
Yes
No to all
Yes to any
Transport to nearest hospital if injured; consider on-site or hospital treatment if uninjured
Prehospital cardiac instability
Systolic blood pressure <90 mm Hg
Ventricular arrhythmias
Core temperature <28°C
Start CPR, do not delay transport
Prevent further heat loss
Provide airway management and up to 3 doses of medication and defibrillation
Consider termination of CPR
HT I
Provide warm environment and clothing
Provide warm sweet drinks
Encourage active movement
No to all
Yes to any
Transport to nearest appropriate hospital
Transport to hospital with ECMO or CPB
Cardiac arrest before cooling
Major trauma
Witnessed normothermic arrest
Avalanche burial <35 min
HT II or III
Minimize movements to prevent arrhythmias
Prevent further heat loss
Use active external and minimally invasive rewarming techniques
Provide airway management as required
No to all
Yes to any
Consider tests to confirm need for ECMO or CPB
Core temperature <32°C
Serum potassium <12 mmol/liter
Transport to nearest appropriate hospital or treat per supervising doctor
Yes to all
No to any
Transport to hospital with ECMO or CPB; do not terminate CPR
Prepare for multiorgan failure and need for ECMO respiratory support
Provide post-arrest management
Consider therapeutic hypothermia 32–34°C for 24 hr
Cardiac instability resolved
HT IV
Rewarm with ECMO or CPB
If ECMO or CPB not available, provide CPR with active external and alternative internal rewarming
Rewarm to 32°C core temperature
No ROSC
Consider termination of CPR