

The Development of a DDH Care Pathway for India:

A Study Methodology to Guide Similar Efforts in Other Countries and for Other Conditions

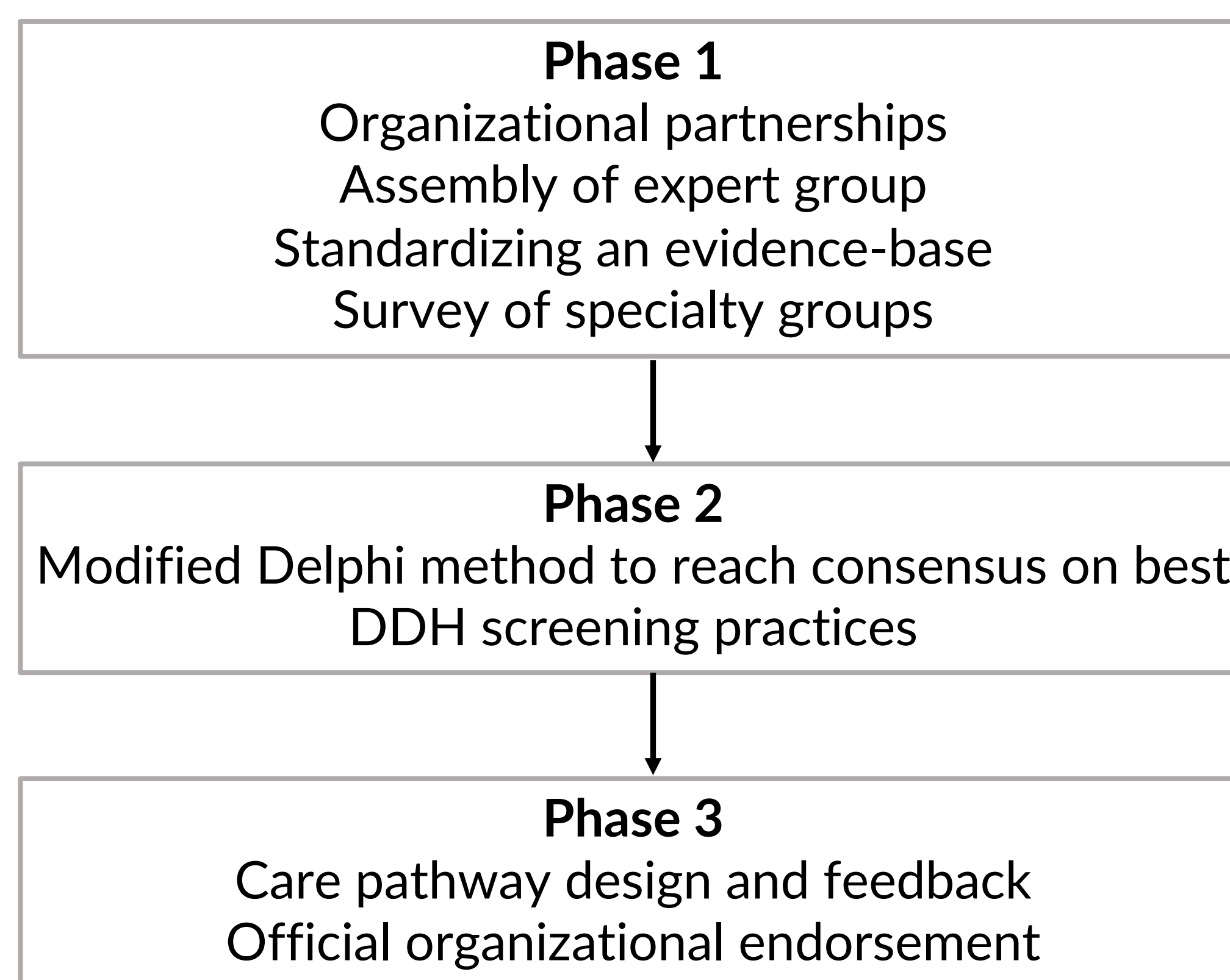
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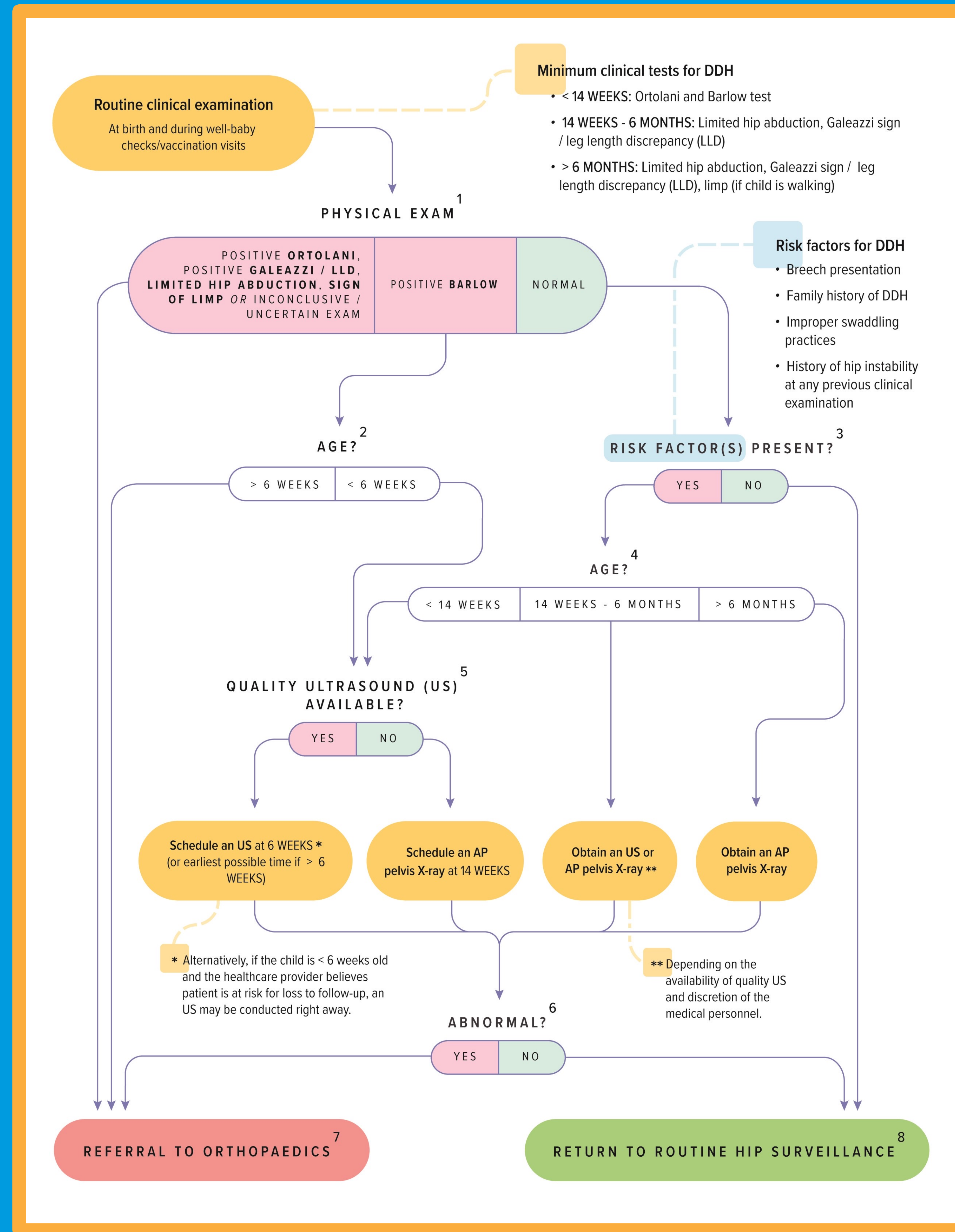
BACKGROUND: Developmental dysplasia of the hip (DDH) is a spectrum of hip abnormalities, from mild dysplasia to hip dislocation, leading to childhood disability and premature hip osteoarthritis. Treatment options depend on age and severity; early diagnosis can be managed non-operatively, while advanced cases require surgery.

A DDH care pathway is an evidence-based decision-making algorithm to standardize patient-centered care from evaluation to referral or surveillance. In India, DDH incidence ranges from 1.0 to 9.2 per 1000 live births, and many children are assessed late. Developing a DDH care pathway specifically for India could standardize care and improve early detection.

METHODS:



DDH Care Pathway designed for India provides primary health workers with a surveillance protocol for screening infants for DDH.



Scan the QR code to view a more comprehensive flow diagram of the multi-phase process used for care pathway development.

RESULTS:

- Delphi process concluded after a preliminary survey and two Delphi rounds.
- Reached a consensus on 47 statements, which were condensed into 35.
- Developed care pathway for India features periodic clinical hip examinations integrated with the country's immunization schedule and selective imaging screening, providing flexibility in the timing and modality of imaging.

CONCLUSION:

- There is a need for DDH care pathways specific to local contexts, especially in Global South countries.
- Successful care pathway development requires accounting for cultural differences in healthcare and strategies to facilitate engagement and to address country-specific barriers.
- This methodology was feasible in India and can be applied to other conditions and/or countries wishing to establish care pathways.

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