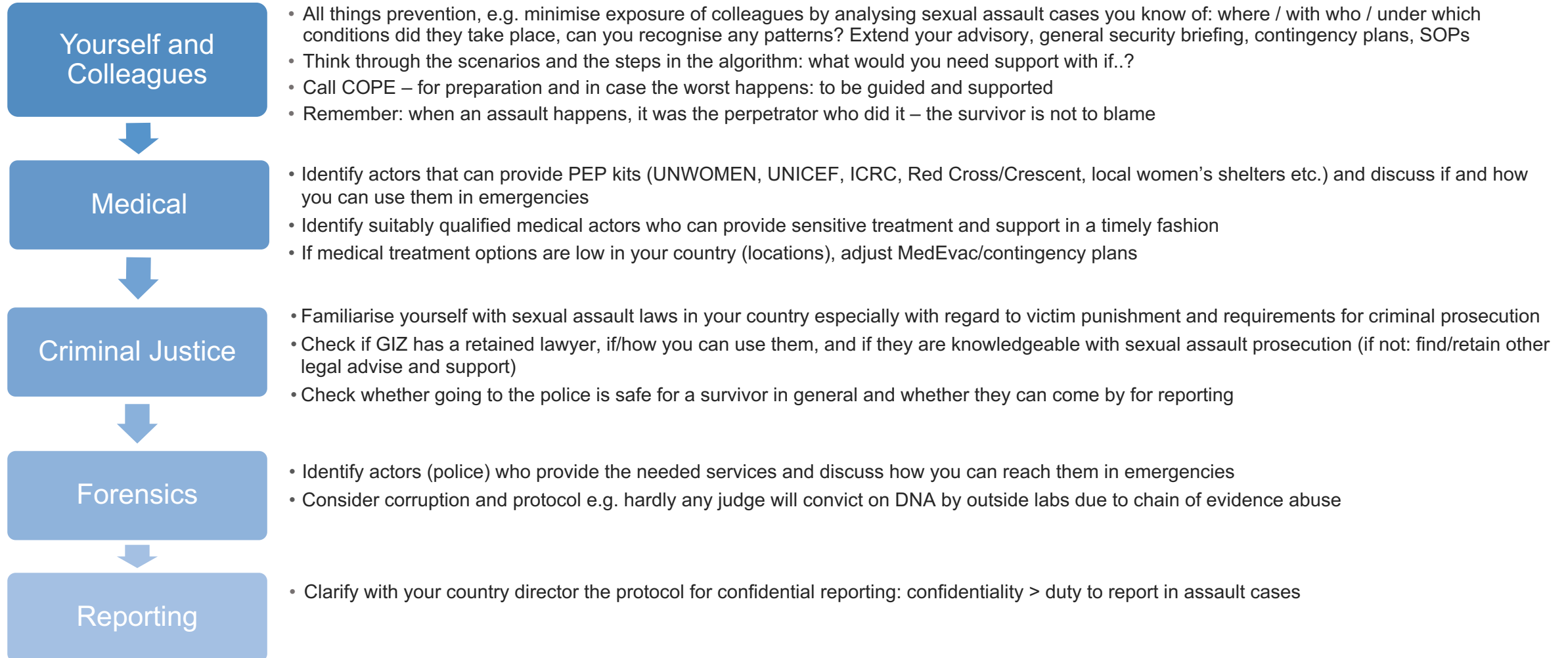


Post-assault management in the field: prepare well



Post-assault management in the field: support well



Is the survivor in a safe place?

What place is perceived as safe depends on the survivor's experience

Try to respond to the survivor's proposal

Being in a place where the affected person feels safe and comfortable might ease the situation a lot

Offer your company and stay present if asked for it



Does s/he want medical treatment?

First response: check if any prior illnesses, chronic illnesses, etc. are to be respected

Pep kits need usually to be prescribed by a doctor

Involving internal medical services: to offer the best treatment options, also regarding pre-existing conditions



Does s/he want criminal justice involved?

Be aware and prepare the survivor that the criminal investigation can contain challenging parts

Is sh/e in a good place to reiterate the story once more?

Ask what you need to know, not what happened – your job is not to investigate

Repeatedly being asked to describe the incident may lead to re-traumatisation, including that shame felt by survivors can be increased by others involvement



Does s/he want forensic evidence to be taken?

Be aware and prepare the survivor that this medical check can contain challenging parts

Taking forensic evidence requires a very intimate medical examination

It might be of great importance for further prosecution but emphatically assuring that the survivor is really already capable to stand the necessary procedures is key

If the survivor e.g. reacts sensitively to physical closeness or contact, intimate examination might not be advised



Does s/he want to report or initiate an internal investigation?

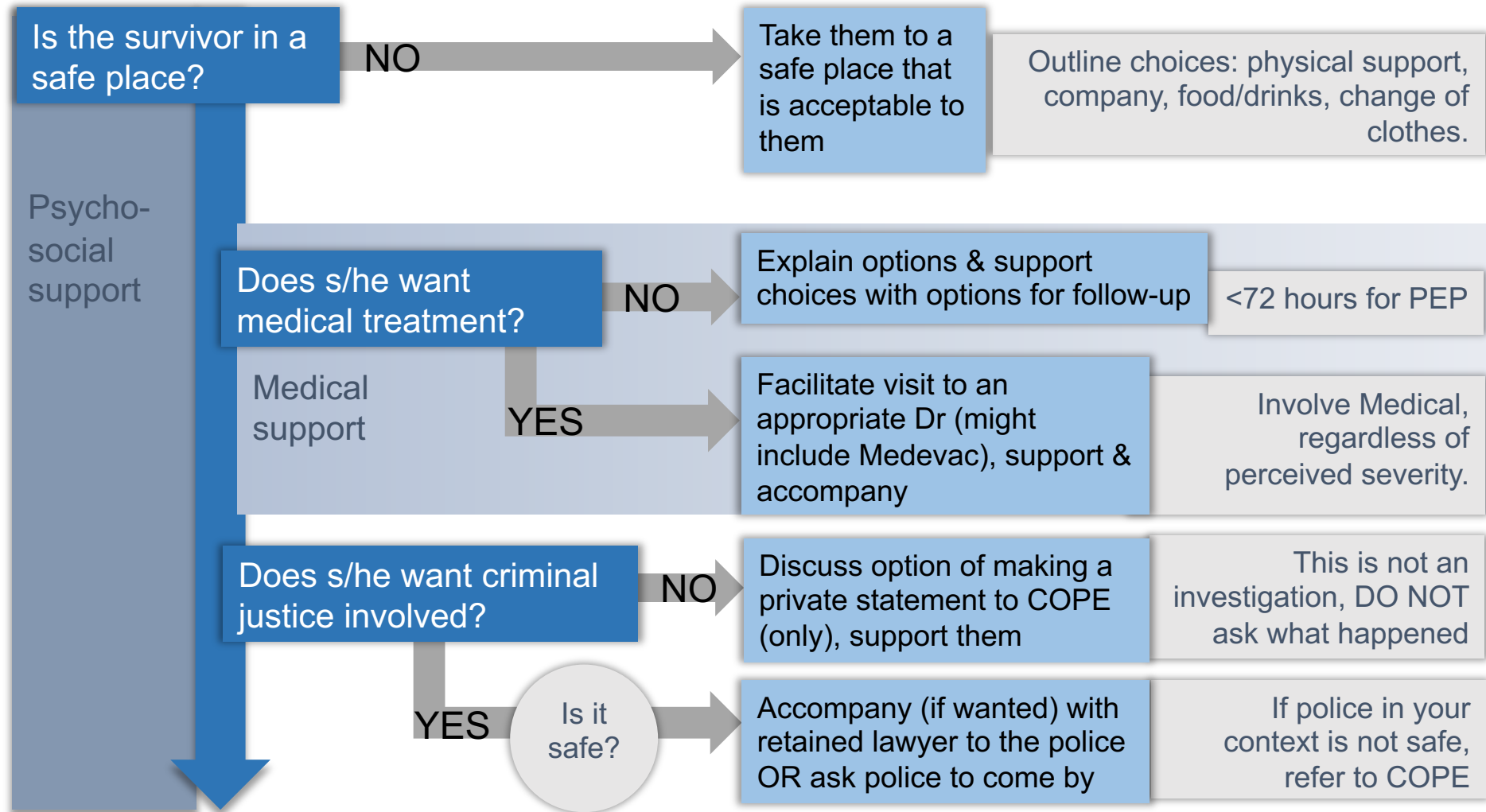
For many survivors, the sentiment of preventing others from suffering the same helps their own coping

At the same time, an internal investigation can draw a lot of unwanted attention and might create pressure from colleagues to explain oneself (beware of the blaming)

Consider anonymous reporting and – in any case – respect the wish for confidentiality

Note: others' attention can make coping more difficult

Algorithm for post-assault management in the field (I)



Algorithm for post-assault management in the field (II)

