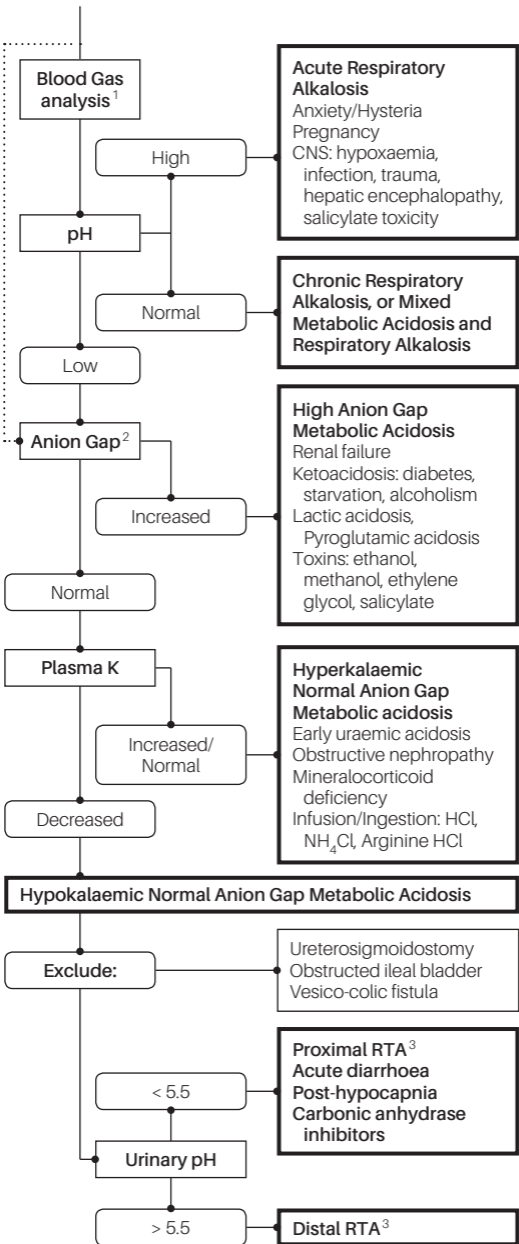


Causes of low plasma HCO_3^-

Flowchart for assessment of low plasma bicarbonate



1. If blood gases are unavailable, exclude Respiratory Alkalosis on clinical grounds

2. Anion Gap = $\text{Na} - \{\text{Cl} + \text{HCO}_3\}$
Reference range: 5–15 mmol/L

3. RTA: Renal Tubular Acidosis