Algorithm for early diagnosis of cerebral palsy or high-risk cerebral palsy

**Newborn-detectable risks**
- Pre-term
- Encephalopathy
- History or neurological risk factors (e.g. birth defect, IUGR)
- Parent identified concern
- Unable to sit at 9 months or hand asymmetry

**Infant-detectable risks**
- Unable to sit at 9 months or hand asymmetry

**Risks or concerns warrant an investigation for cerebral palsy**

Conduct a medical history and clinical examination with or without investigations for etiology and differential diagnosis (as indicated)

**<5 months CA**

**>5 months CA**

**Combined assessment data indicates:**
- High risk of CP
- Definitely CP
- Unclear
- Definitely not CP

**Determine preliminary severity of cerebral palsy**

**Determine preliminary topography**

**Assess for associated impairments**

**Communicate findings to parents compassionately**

**Arrange early intervention and parent support**

**Confirm diagnosis**

**Acronyms**
- CP: Cerebral palsy
- IUGR: Intrauterine growth restriction
- CA: Corrected age
- HINE: Hammersmith Infant Neurological Examination
- MRI: Magnetic Resonance Imaging
- WMI: White matter injury
- GMs: Prechtl’s General Movements Assessment
- TIMP: Test of Infant Motor Performance
- DAYC: Developmental Assessment of Young Children
- AIMS: Alberta Infant Motor Scale
- NSMDA: Neuro Sensory Motor Developmental Assessment
- MAI: Motor assessment of infants