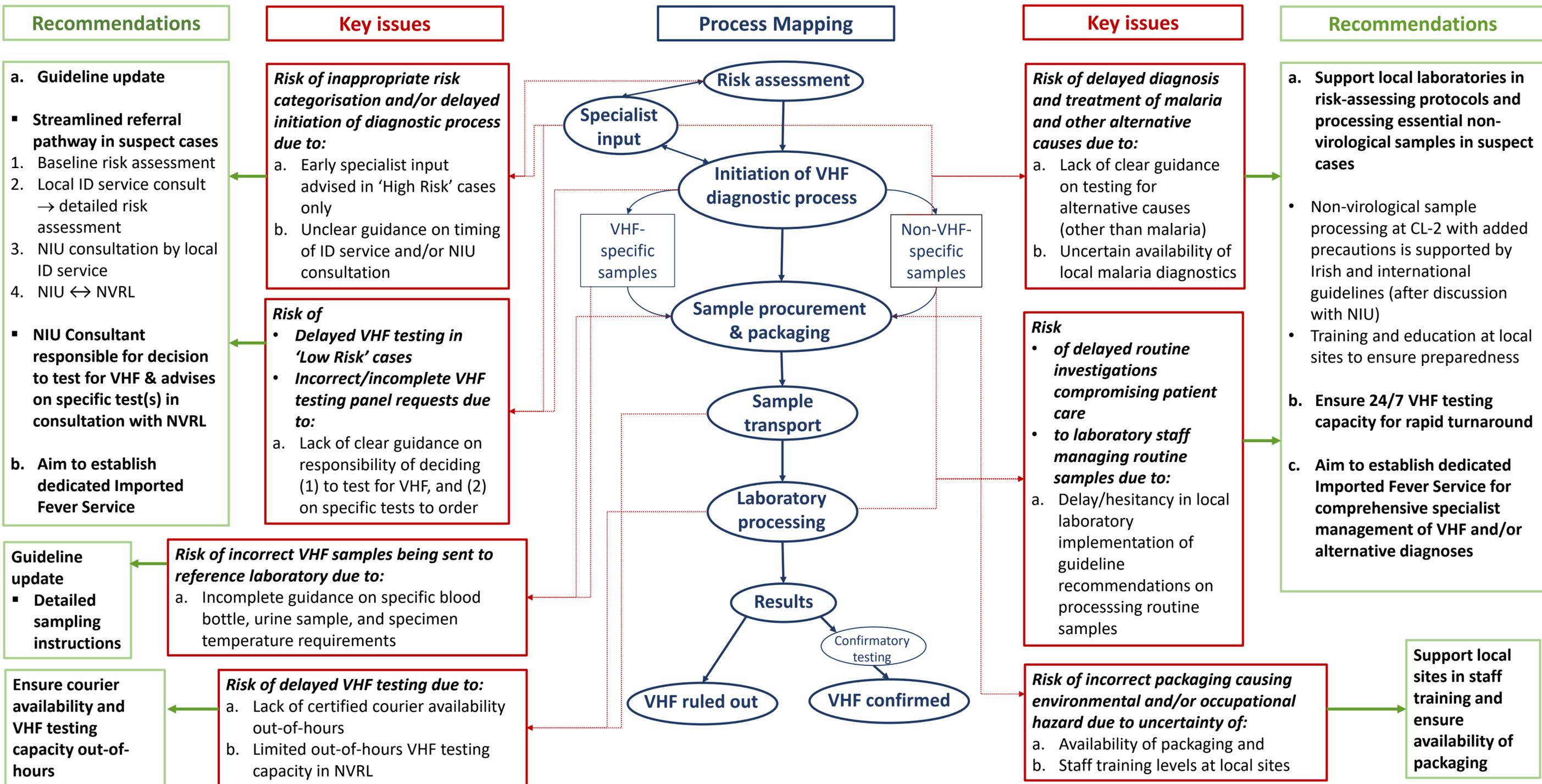


Background
Viral haemorrhagic fevers (VHF) are considered High Consequence Infectious Diseases (HCID). As the opening of the new National Isolation Unit (NIU) is imminent, this is an opportune time to refine Irish VHF guidelines to ensure adequate preparedness. Prompt confirmation or exclusion of a VHF diagnosis is required for timely and appropriate NIU activation, or management of alternate diagnoses.

Aims & Methods
This Quality Improvement Project aims to revise the VHF diagnostics algorithm in line with international best practice, and to improve the process of isolating and testing suspected cases locally, with NIU support.

Irish VHF laboratory diagnosis guidelines were reviewed. Each step of the process was compared to relevant international guidance identified through National Health Protection agencies and web-based search. Problem areas were identified, root causes analysed, and recommendations for improvement proposed.



- Next Steps**
1. Consultation with stakeholders on guideline revision to ensure that clear, concise, easy-to-use guidance (that is applicable to current practice and capacity) is available for local clinical sites
 2. Recommend expansion of urgent VHF testing capacity in the NVRL & certified courier availability out-of-hours
 3. Initiate discussion on establishing a dedicated national Imported Fever Service