**Figure 1: Pathway for assessing the risk of new or continuing NSAID use28**

YES

Physiotherapy, exercise, occupational therapy, devices (such as walking sticks, orthotics) and/or application of heat/cold may improve mobility and reduce need for analgesia

YES

Consider trial of paracetamol 500-1000mg every 4-6 hours to a max of 4g/day

YES

**Risk of harm outweighs benefits**

Discuss alternatives with the patient

**Benefits outweigh risks of harm**

* Discuss with patient possible adverse effects of NSAIDs and action to take if they suspect them
* Use the lowest effective dose for the shortest possible duration. Adding NSAIDs to paracetamol can allow a lower dose of NSAIDs
* Regularly review the effectiveness and need for ongoing NSAIDs
* Do not stop low dose aspirin if NSAID cannot be avoided. Do educate patient about risks of bleeding.

What is the overall balance of benefits and harm?

How does the patient value the risk of harm compared with the need for further analgesia?