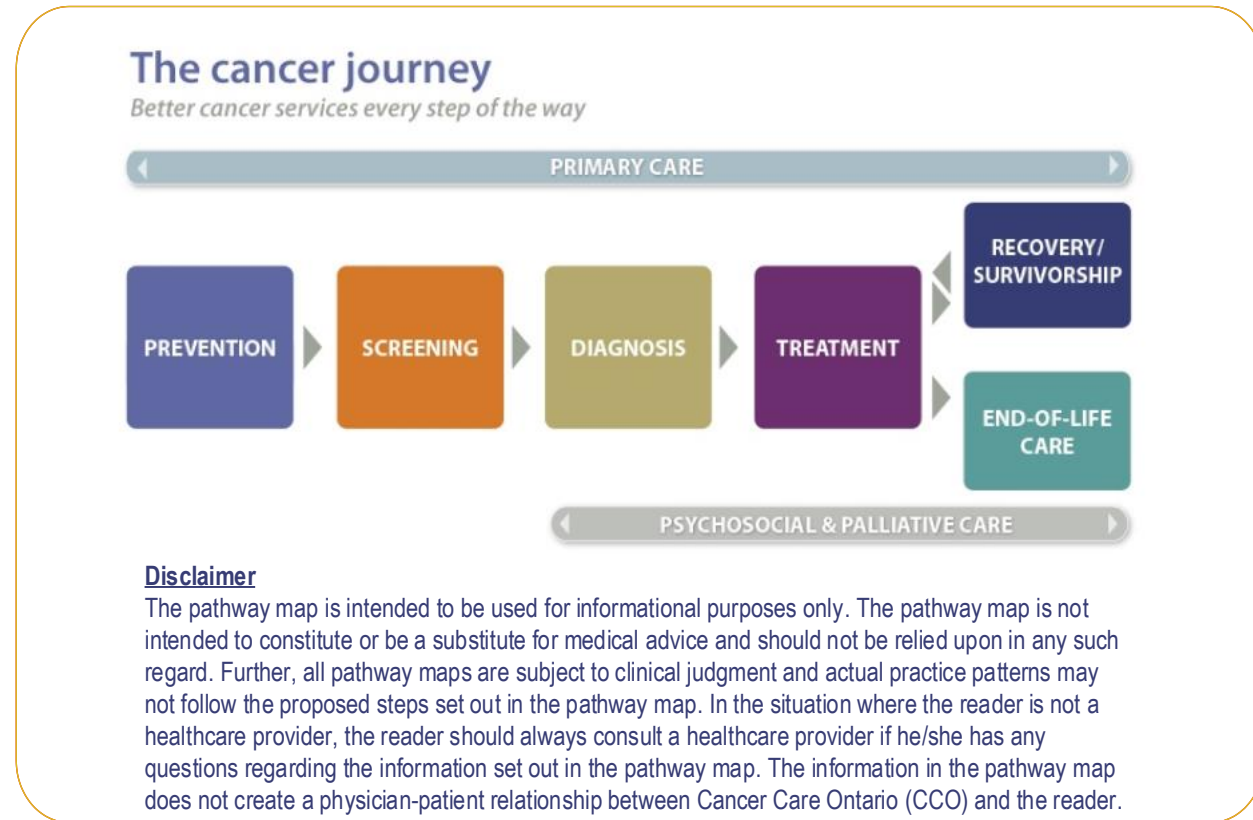


Esophageal Cancer Diagnosis Pathway Map

Version 2019.05



Target Population

Patients who present with signs or symptoms suspicious of esophageal cancer.



Pathway Map Considerations

- Primary care providers play an important role in the cancer journey and should be informed of relevant tests and consultations. Ongoing care with a primary care provider is assumed to be part of the pathway. For patients who do not have a primary care provider, [Health Care Connect](#), is a government resource that helps patients find a doctor or nurse practitioner.
- Throughout the pathway, a shared decision-making model should be implemented to enable and encourage patients to play an active role in the management of their care. For more information see [Person-Centered Care Guideline](#) and [EBS #19-2 Provider-Patient Communication*](#)
- Hyperlinks are used throughout the pathway to provide information about relevant CCO tools, resources and guidance documents.
- The term 'health care provider', used throughout the pathway, includes primary care providers and specialists, nurse practitioners, and emergency physicians.
- For more information on Organized Diagnostic Assessment refer to the [Organizational Standards](#)
- Psychosocial oncology (PSO) is the interprofessional specialty concerned with understanding and treating the social, practical, psychological, emotional, spiritual and functional needs and quality-of-life impact that cancer has on patients and their families. Psychosocial care should be considered an integral and standardized part of cancer care for patients and their families at all stages of the illness trajectory. For more information, visit [EBS #19-3*](#)
- Counseling and treatment for smoking cessation should be initiated early on in the pathway and continued by care providers throughout the pathway as necessary [Program Training & Consultation Centre – Hospital Based Resources](#)










* **Note.** [EBS #19-2](#) and [EBS #19-3](#) is older than 3 years and is currently listed as 'For Education and Information Purposes'. This means that the recommendations will no longer be maintained but may still be useful for academic or other information purposes.

Pathway Map Legend



Colour Guide

	Primary Care
	Palliative Care
	Pathology
	Organized Diagnostic Assessment
	Surgery
	Radiation Oncology
	Medical Oncology
	Radiology
	Multidisciplinary Cancer Conference (MCC)
	Endoscopy/Gastroenterology
	Psycho-social Oncology (PSO)

Shape Guide

	Intervention
	Decision or assessment point
	Patient (disease) characteristics
	Consultation with specialist
	Exit pathway
	Off-page reference
	Patient/Provider interaction
	Referral
	Wait time indicator time point

Line Guide

	Required
	Possible

Pathway Map Disclaimer

This pathway map is a resource that provides an overview of the treatment that an individual in the Ontario cancer system may receive.

The pathway map is intended to be used for informational purposes only. The pathway map is not intended to constitute or be a substitute for medical advice and should not be relied upon in any such regard. Further, all pathway maps are subject to clinical judgment and actual practice patterns may not follow the proposed steps set out in the pathway map. In the situation where the reader is not a healthcare provider, the reader should always consult a healthcare provider if he/she has any questions regarding the information set out in the pathway map. The information in the pathway map does not create a physician-patient relationship between Cancer Care Ontario (CCO) and the reader.

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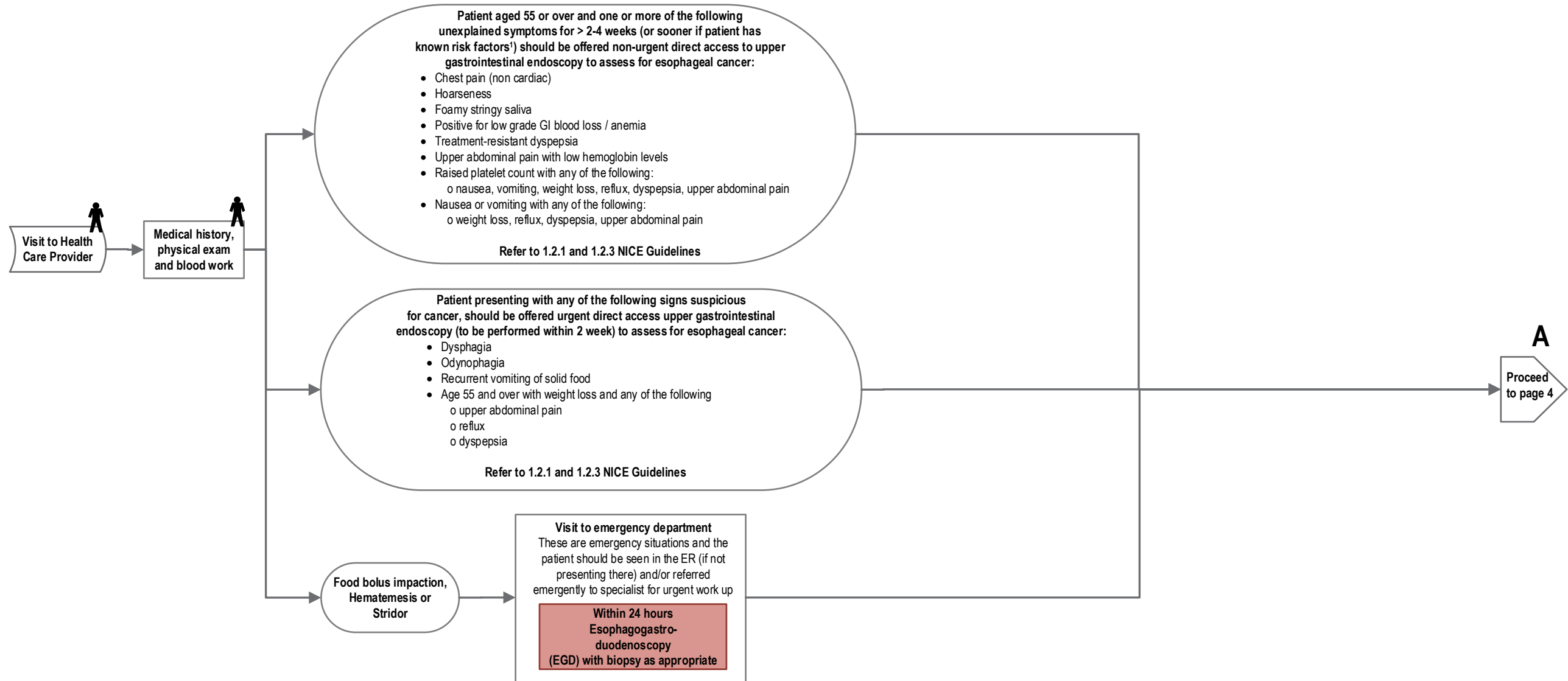
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Screen for psychosocial needs, and assessment and management of symptoms. [Click here for more information about symptom assessment and management tools](#)

Consider integrating the palliative care approach early and across the cancer journey. [Click here for more information about palliative care](#)

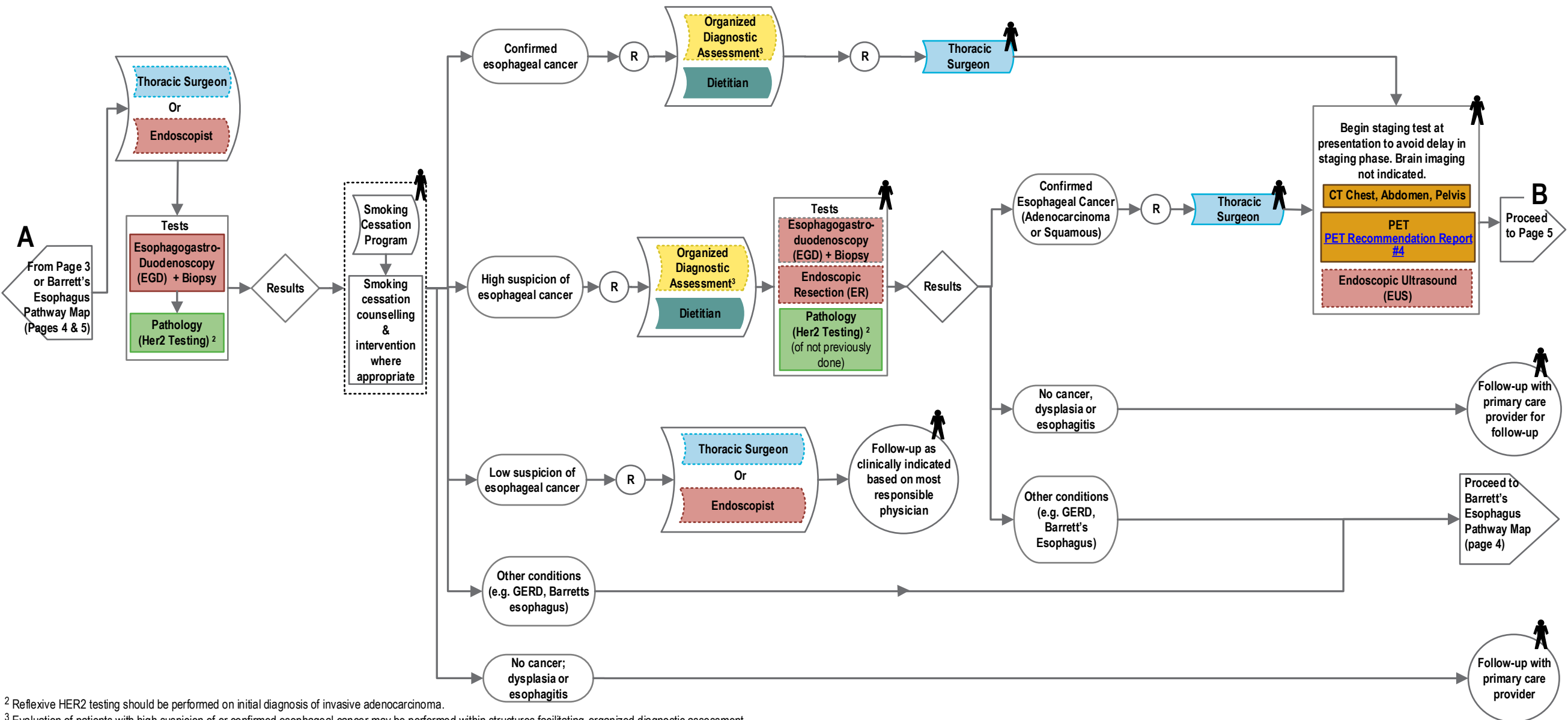


¹ Risk factors include history of Barrett's esophagus, GERD, achalasia, or caustic ingestion; smoking, alcohol (>13 drinks per week), obesity, diets high in n-nitrosamines, pickled vegetables and frequent ingestion of hot beverages.

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² Reflexive HER2 testing should be performed on initial diagnosis of invasive adenocarcinoma.

³ Evaluation of patients with high suspicion of or confirmed esophageal cancer may be performed within structures facilitating organized diagnostic assessment.

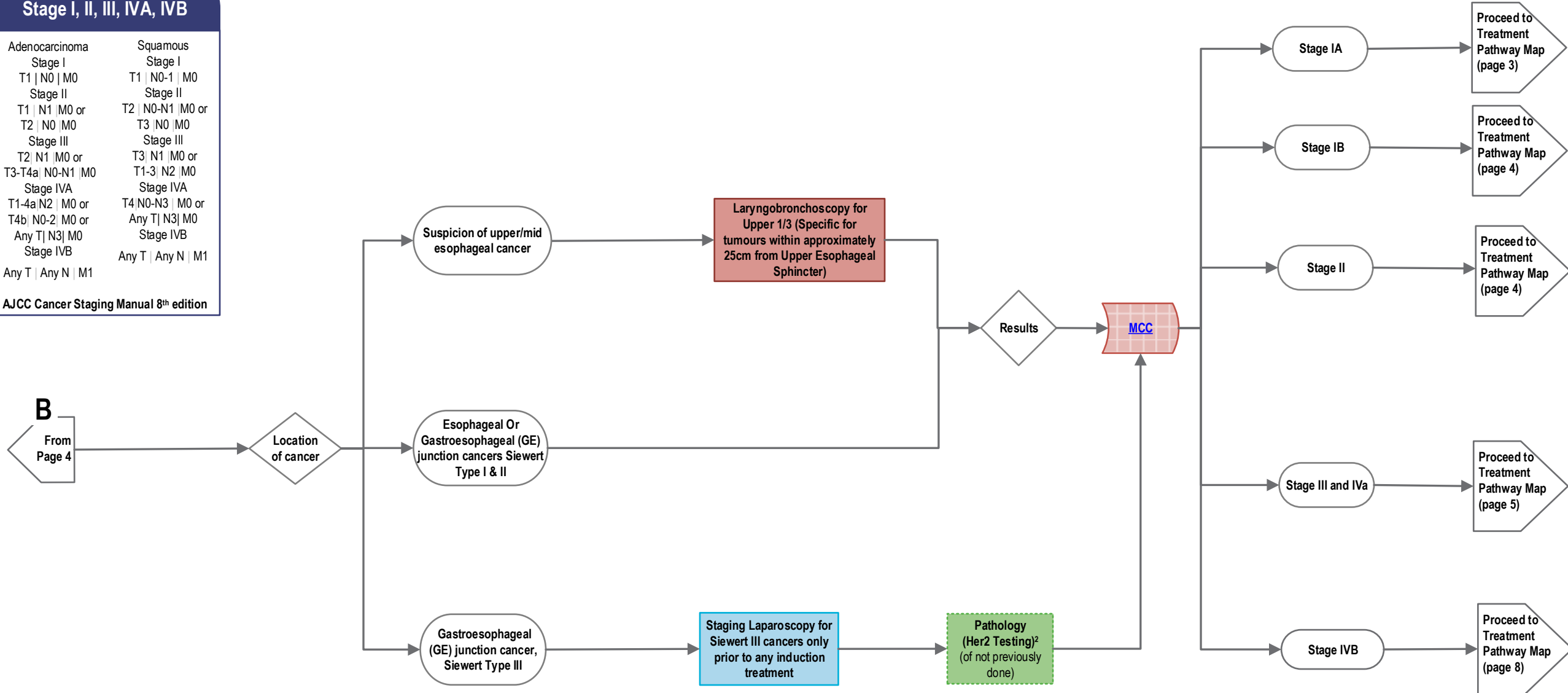
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Stage I, II, III, IVA, IVB	
Adenocarcinoma	Squamous
Stage I	Stage I
T1 N0 M0	T1 N0-1 M0
Stage II	Stage II
T1 N1 M0 or T2 N0 M0	T2 N0-N1 M0 or T3 N0 M0
Stage III	Stage III
T2 N1 M0 or T3-T4a N0-N1 M0	T3 N1 M0 or T1-3 N2 M0
Stage IVA	Stage IVA
T1-4a N2 M0 or T4b N0-2 M0 or Any T N3 M0	T4 N0-N3 M0 or Any T N3 M0
Stage IVB	Stage IVB
Any T Any N M1	Any T Any N M1

AJCC Cancer Staging Manual 8th edition



² Reflexive HER2 testing should be performed on initial diagnosis of invasive adenocarcinoma