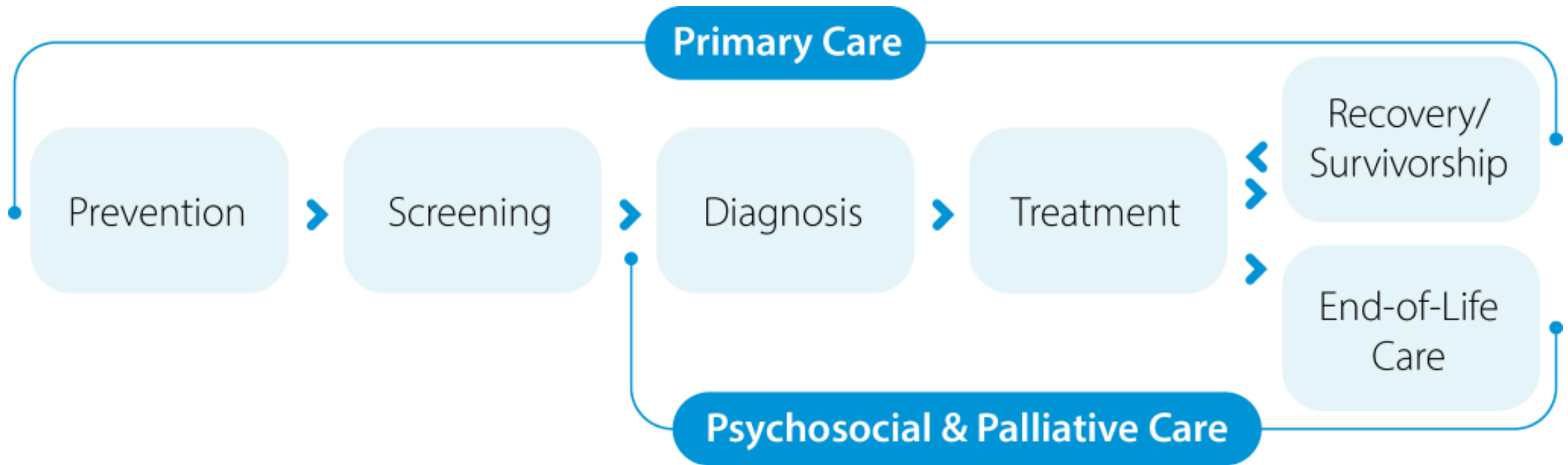


Rectal Cancer Treatment Pathway Map

Version 2023.06



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
















Target Population

Patients with a confirmed rectal cancer diagnosis who have undergone the recommended diagnostic and staging procedures as outlined in the [Colorectal Cancer Diagnosis Pathway Map](#).

Pathway Map Considerations

- All patients under consideration for an ostomy should be referred to an Enterostomal Therapy Nurse preoperatively. Patients should have access to an Enterostomal Therapy Nurse before and after ostomy surgery. Refer to: [Supporting Adults Who Anticipate or Live with an Ostomy, Clinical Best Practice Guideline, Registered Nurses Association of Ontario](#).
- The pathway map is only intended for primary adenocarcinoma. Familial cancers (Lynch/non-Lynch) and cancers in the settings of inflammatory bowel disease are handled differently.
- 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 map. For patients who do not have a primary care provider, [Health811](#) is a government resource that helps patients find a doctor or nurse practitioner.
- Throughout the pathway map, 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-Centred Care Guideline](#) and [EBS #19-2 Provider-Patient Communication](#).*
- Hyperlinks are used throughout the pathway map to provide information about relevant Ontario Health (Cancer Care Ontario) tools, resources and guidance documents.
- The term 'health care provider', used throughout the pathway map, includes primary care providers and specialists, e.g. family doctors, nurse practitioners, and emergency physicians.
- Multidisciplinary Cancer Conferences (MCCs) may be considered for all phases of the pathway map. For more information on Multidisciplinary Cancer Conferences, visit [MCC Tools](#).
- For more information on wait time prioritization, visit [Surgery](#).
- Clinical trials should be considered for all phases of the pathway map.
- Sexual health should be considered throughout the care continuum. Healthcare providers should discuss sexual health with patients before, during and after treatment as part of informed decision-making and symptom management. See [Psychosocial Oncology Guidelines Resources](#).
- Before initiating gonadotoxic therapy (e.g. surgery, systemic, radiation), healthcare providers should discuss potential effects on fertility with patients and arrange referral to a fertility specialist if appropriate. See [Ontario Fertility Program](#).
- 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](#).*
- The following should be considered when weighing the treatment options described in this pathway map for patients with potentially life-limiting illness:
 - Palliative care may be of benefit at any stage of the cancer journey, and may enhance other types of care – including restorative or rehabilitative care – or may become the total focus of care.
 - Ongoing discussions regarding goals of care is central to palliative care, and is an important part of the decision-making process. Goals of care discussions include the type, extent and goal of a treatment or care plan, where care will be provided, which health care providers will provide the care, and the patient's overall approach to care.
- For more information the systemic treatment QBP please refer to the: [Quality-Based Procedures Clinical Handbook for Systemic Treatment](#)

Pathway Map Legend

Colour Guide	Shape Guide	Line Guide
 Primary Care	 Intervention	Required
 Palliative Care	 Decision or assessment point	Possible
 Pathology	 Patient (disease) characteristics	
 Surgery	 Consultation with specialist	
 Radiation Oncology	 Exit pathway	
 Medical Oncology	 Off page reference	
 Radiology	 Referral	
 Multidisciplinary Cancer Conference (MCC)		
 Psychosocial Oncology (PSO)		
 Endoscopy		

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.

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While care has been taken in the preparation of the information contained in the pathway map, such information is provided on an "as-is" basis, without any representation, warranty, or condition, whether express, or implied, statutory or otherwise, as to the information's quality, accuracy, currency, completeness, or reliability.

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* **Note.** [EBS #19-2](#) and [EBS #19-3](#) are older than 3 years and are 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.

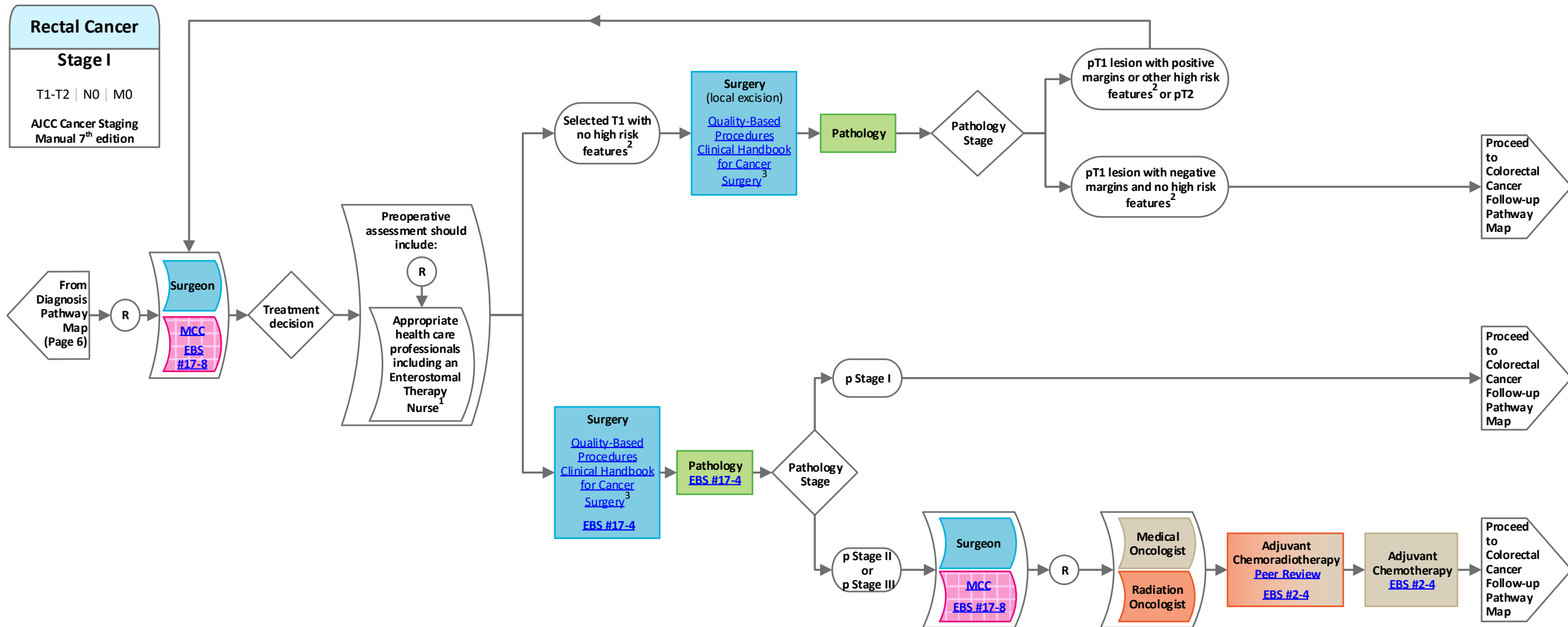
Rectal Cancer Treatment Pathway Map

Stage I

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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](#)

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¹All patients under consideration for an ostomy should be referred to an Enterostomal Therapy Nurse preoperatively. Patients should have access to an Enterostomal Therapy Nurse before and after ostomy surgery.

²High risk features include poorly differentiated histology, lymphovascular invasion (LVI), and/or tumour budding.

³Quality-Based Procedure Clinical Handbook, pages 25-27.

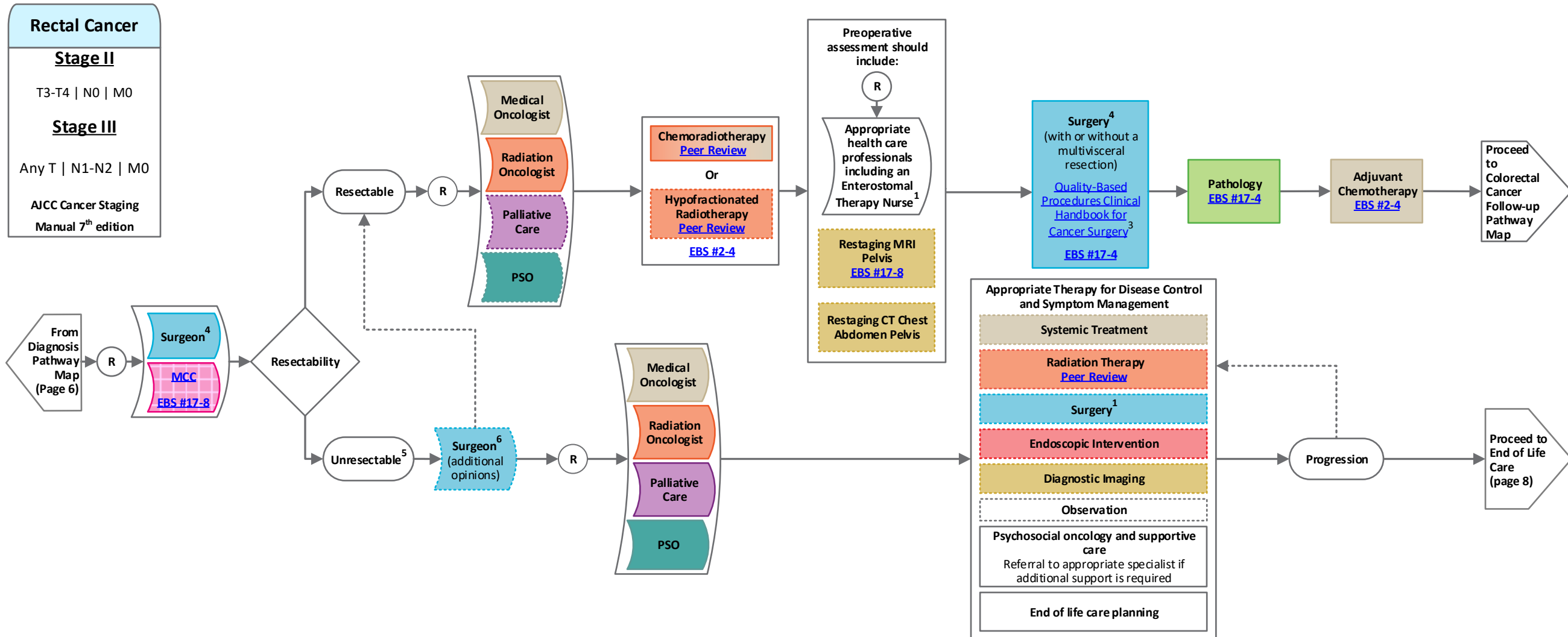
Rectal Cancer Treatment Pathway Map

Stage II and III

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³ Quality-Based Procedures Clinical Handbook, pages 25-27.

⁴ For T4 lesions, patients may also be referred to urology, plastic surgery and/or vascular surgery.

⁵ Unresectable refers to a tumour that cannot be completely removed even with a multivisceral resection (i.e., pelvic sidewall invasion) and/or patient is unfit for major surgery. Goals of care should be discussed. Treatment plans should be based upon MCC recommendations.

⁶ An additional opinion from a second surgical oncologist or colorectal surgeon to reassess resectability should be considered.

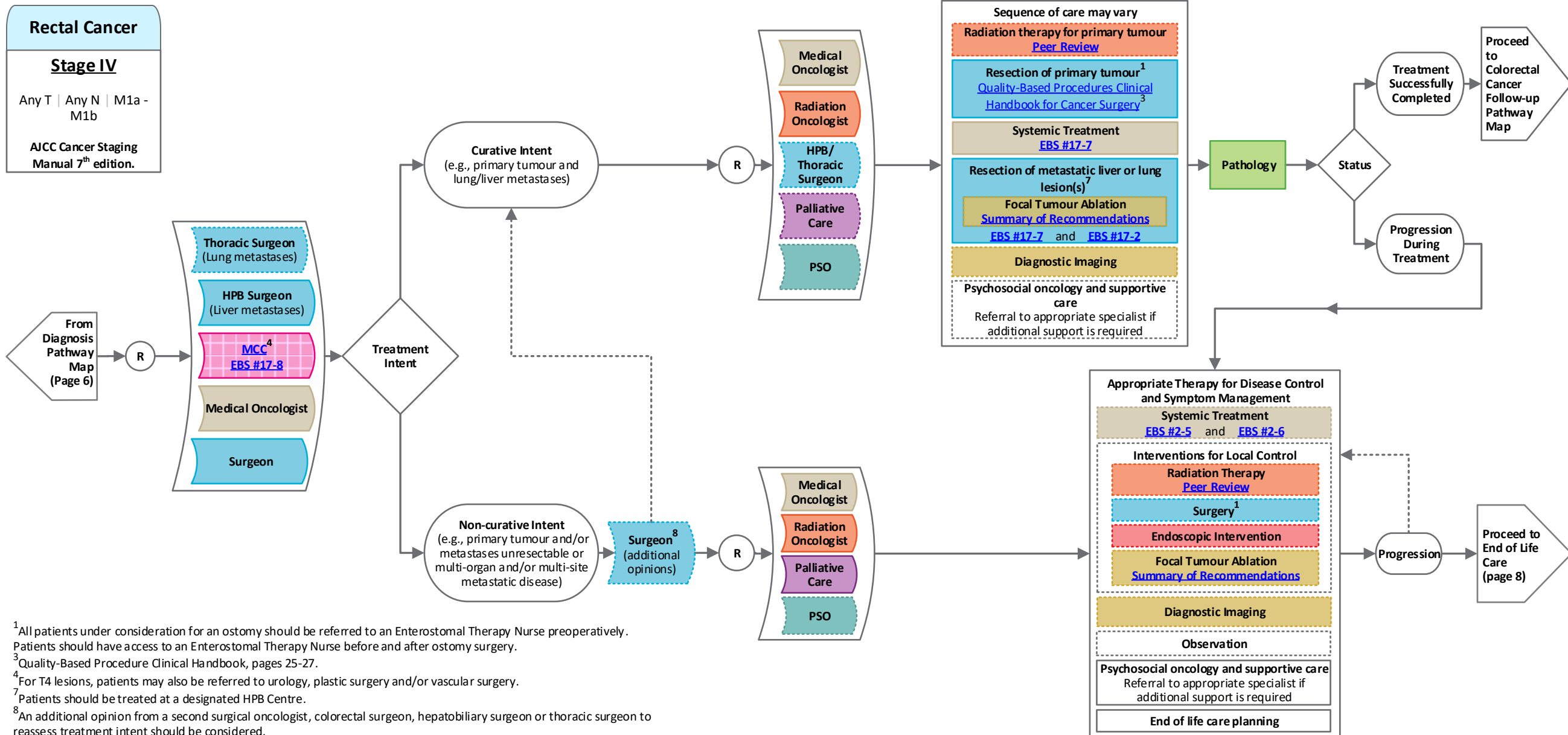
Rectal Cancer Treatment Pathway Map

Stage IV - Primary Tumour In Situ

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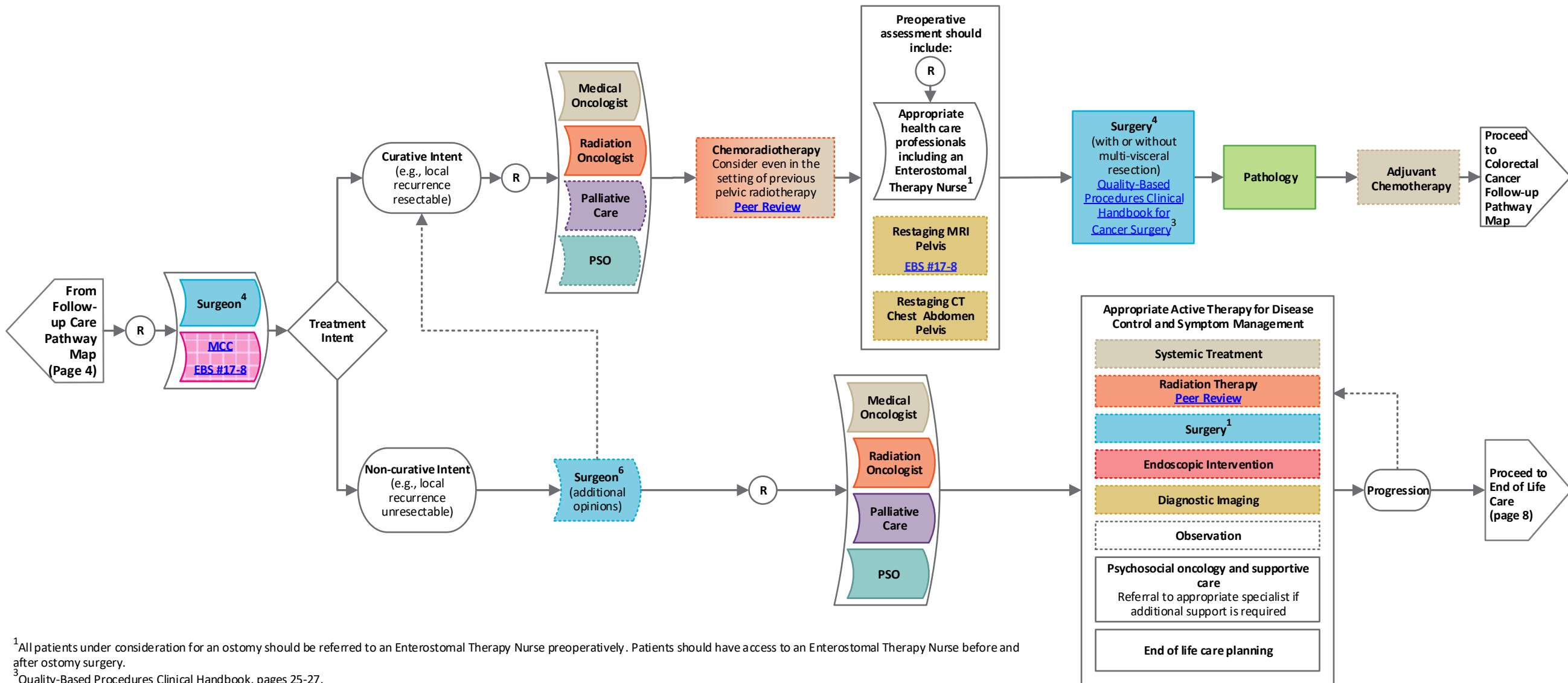
⁷Patients should be treated at a designated HPB Centre.

⁸An additional opinion from a second surgical oncologist, colorectal surgeon, hepatobiliary surgeon or thoracic surgeon to reassess treatment intent should be considered.

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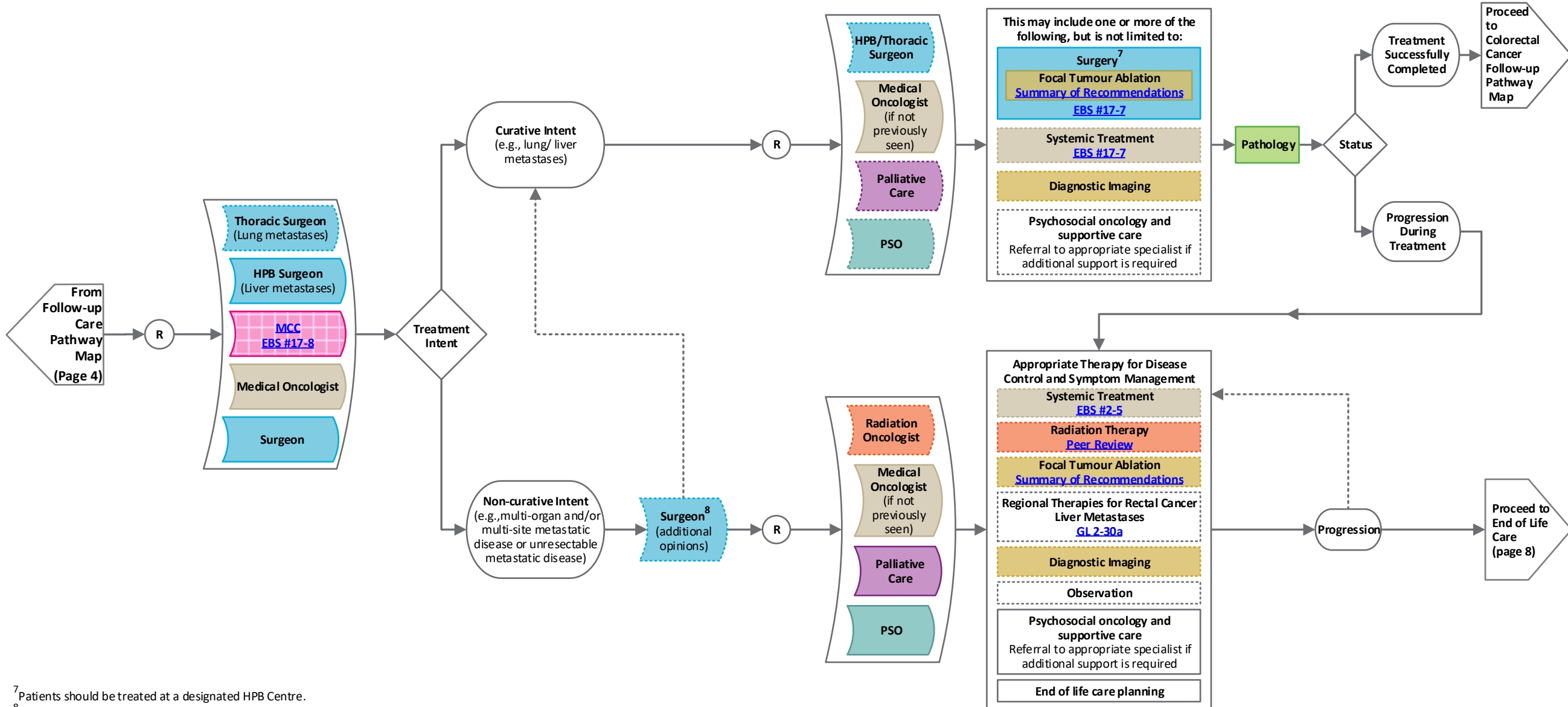
Rectal Cancer Treatment Pathway Map

Metastatic Disease Without Local Recurrence

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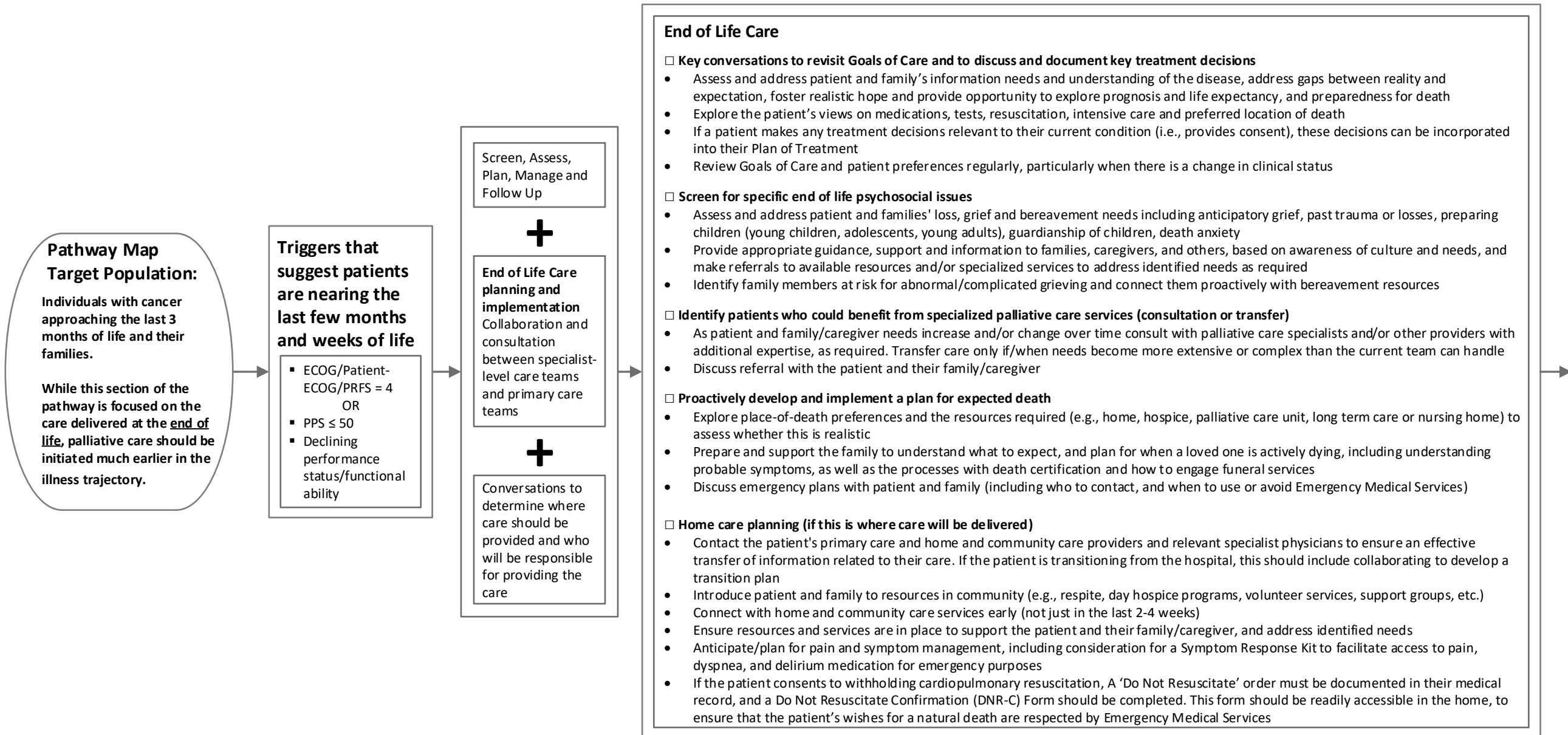
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