



Department of Health

Protocol for Management of Urinary Tract Infections

Tasmanian Community Pharmacist Pilot Program

Version 1.0
January 2024

Background

In September 2023 the Tasmanian Government announced the release and endorsement of the Tasmanian Pharmacy Scope of Practice Review.

This included the ability for pharmacists who have been endorsed *authorised health professionals* to assess patients and prescribe specific antibiotics for uncomplicated urinary tract infections consistent with an approved protocol.

A 12-month pilot program has been announced by the Minister.

A change to the *Poisons Regulations 2018* allows pharmacists to supply medications included in this protocol.

About

This protocol has been developed to provide pharmacists who have been endorsed *authorised health professionals* with a clear framework to supply Schedule 4 medications (antibiotics). It is a regulatory requirement under the *Tasmanian Poisons Regulations 2018* that pharmacists follow this protocol under a structured prescribing arrangement. Endorsed pharmacists must only offer this structured prescribing service in a pharmacy premises that has been approved for this purpose by the Department of Health.

Participating pharmacists are also required to be currently AHPRA registered and have evidence of completion of a training course approved by the Department of Health. Currently there are approved training courses for the management of uncomplicated urinary tract infections offered by the Australasian College of Pharmacy and the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia.

Evaluation

The Department of Health will evaluate the pilot program throughout and at the conclusion of the 12-month period. This will be undertaken through surveys of participating patients, pharmacists and GPs.

Glossary

authorised health professional: A health professional from a named profession in the *Poisons Act 1971* authorised to possess, sell, supply and prescribe certain scheduled substances in certain circumstances – see below under legislative instrument for more details.

structured prescribing arrangement: prescribing specific medications for a specified purpose in accordance with a protocol published by the Tasmanian Department of Health.

Interim Authorisation

Poisons Act 1971 S. R. 2023, No. 86 Poisons (Interim Authorisation) Order 2023

Poisons (Interim Authorisation) Order 2023. This order –

(a) declares pharmacists to be authorised health professionals for the purposes of the Poisons Act 1971; and

(b) declares the Department of Health to be the authorised body for pharmacists; and

(c) authorises pharmacists to possess, sell, supply and prescribe certain scheduled substances in certain circumstances

1. Authorisation in relation to pharmacists

A pharmacist, in the lawful practice of the pharmacist's profession, is authorised to possess, sell, supply or prescribe a scheduled substance, subject to the following conditions:

- (a) that the possession, sale, supply or prescribing of the scheduled substance is in accordance with section 25C(2) of the Act
- (b) that the scheduled substance is only prescribed in accordance with -
 - (i) a treatment plan, in respect of a specific patient, that is produced by a medical practitioner; or
 - (ii) a protocol, in relation to the prescribing of that substance by a pharmacist, published by the department responsible for the administration of the Act.

Requirements of Pharmacists and Pharmacy Premises

The Department of Health must ensure that pharmacists and pharmacy premises participating in the pilot are not currently subject to any practice or premises issues that may adversely impact the safety of people accessing the service.

If a pharmacist applicant is subject to any current Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) and/or Pharmacy Board of Australia investigation, or registration restrictions, this may impact the pharmacist's ability to become endorsed and participate in the pilot until these issues have been detailed to the Department of Health by the applicant and resolved.

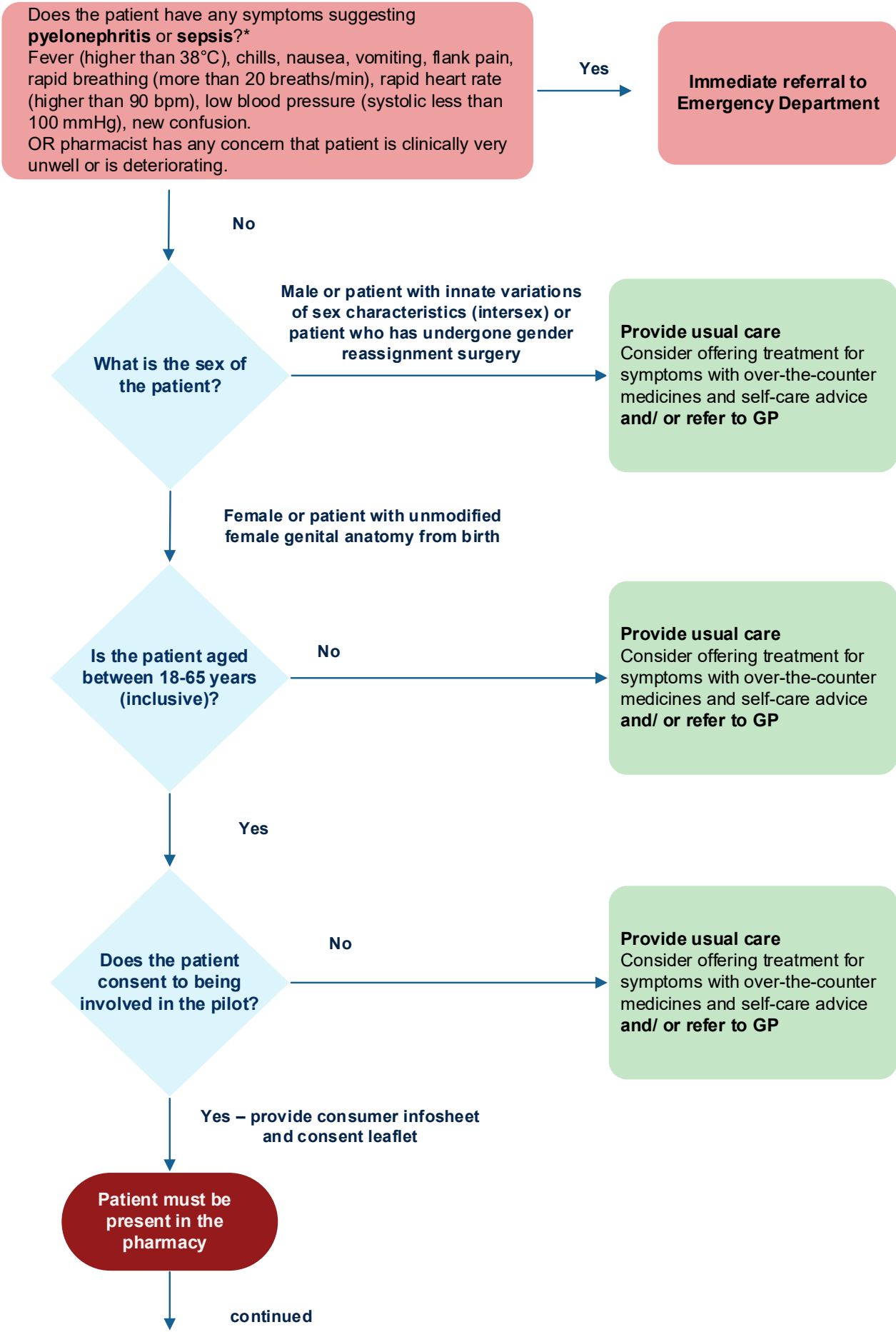
Similarly if a pharmacy is subject to investigations about the appropriateness of the premises under the Pharmacy Control Act this may impact the ability for the pharmacy to be approved for participation.

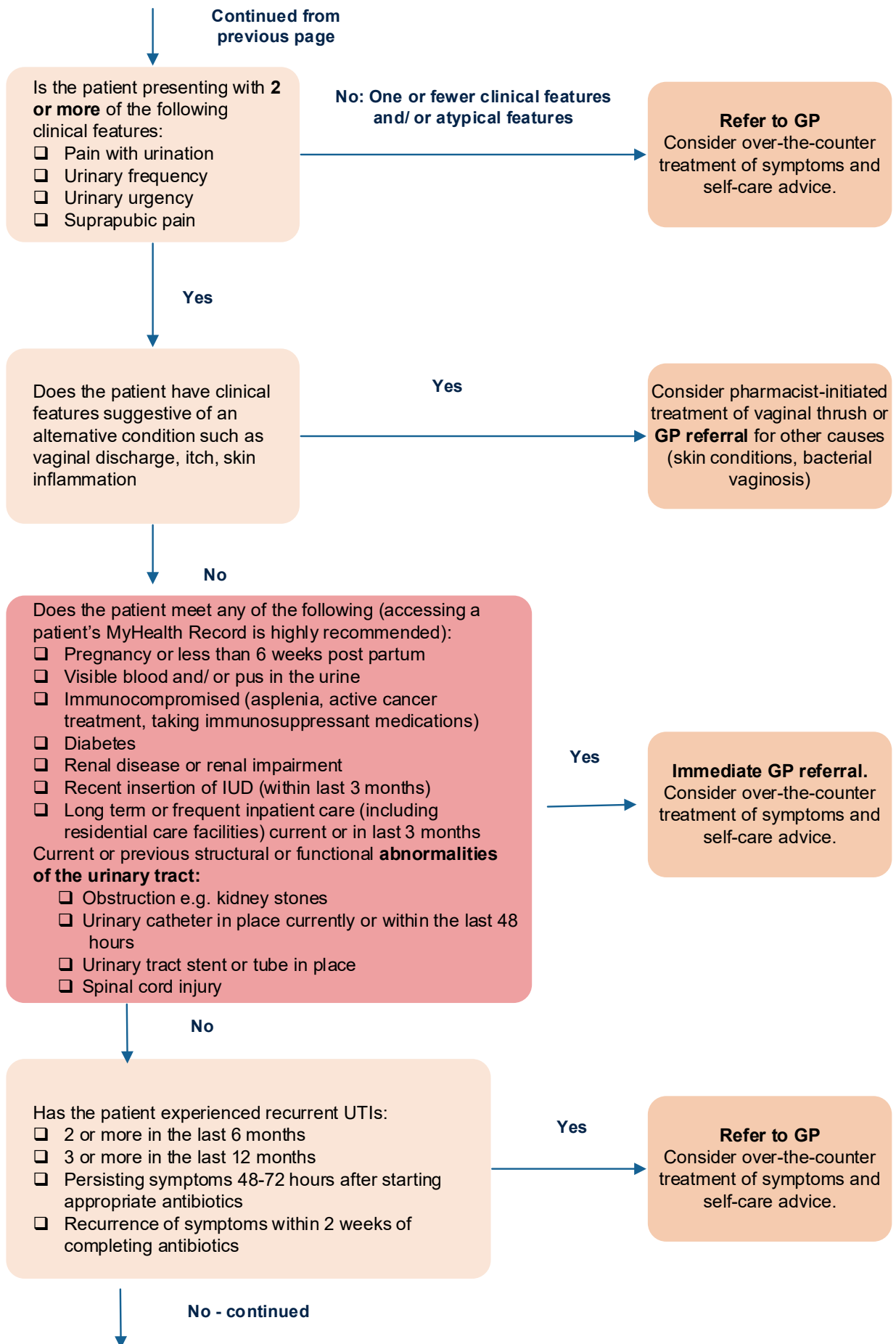
If a pharmacist who has been endorsed becomes subject to an investigation by AHPRA and/or Pharmacy Board of Australia, or their registration is restricted in any way during the endorsement period, the endorsed pharmacist must notify the Department of Health immediately and this may result in the revocation of an endorsement in the interests of protecting the public, the applicant and pharmacy premises.

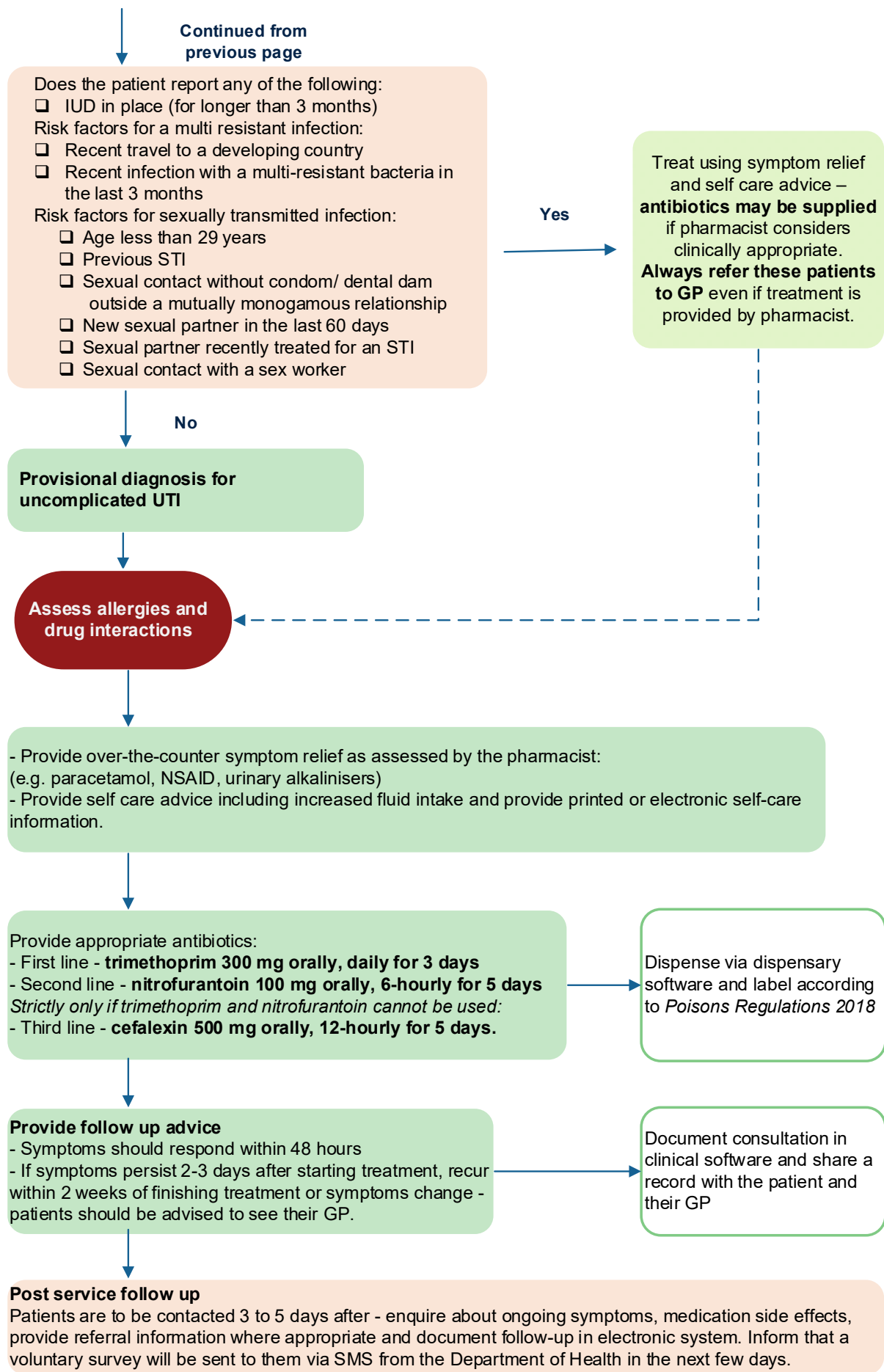
Assessment and Management

Pages 4-6 provide an assessment and management protocol for pharmacists for patients presenting with clinical features of a urinary tract infection.

The protocol will not cover all possible clinical circumstances and pharmacists are required to exercise their professional judgement in adapting the treatment guideline to individual circumstances.







Documentation requirements:

The pharmacist must make a clinical record of the consultation that contains at a minimum:

- Sufficient information to identify and make contact with the patient
- The date of consultation
- Name of the pharmacist who undertook the consultation
- Documentation of consent given by the patient regarding:
 - pilot participation
 - costs
 - pharmacist communication with other healthcare practitioners (e.g. patient's usual treating GP) and
 - access to the patient's My Health Record for checking relevant medical history.
- Information relevant to the diagnosis or treatment
- Clinical opinion reached by the pharmacist
- Actions taken by the pharmacist (including any medications supplied or referrals made to a medical practitioner)
- Details of medications supplied to the patient
- Information or advice given to the patient in relation to treatment proposed

The pharmacist must provide a copy of the consultation summary to the patient.

The consultation summary is also to be shared with patient's usual treating medical practitioner or medical practice (the only exception to this is if the patient does not have a regular GP or does not consent to their information being shared).

Resources

Guidelines:

- [Pharmaceutical Society of Australia. Treatment guideline for pharmacists: Cystitis](https://my.psa.org.au/s/article/Treatment-guideline-for-pharmacists-cystitis) (https://my.psa.org.au/s/article/Treatment-guideline-for-pharmacists-cystitis)
- [Therapeutic Guidelines. Melbourne: Therapeutic Guidelines Limited; accessed 10 September 2023.](https://www.tg.org.au) (https://www.tg.org.au)
- [Australian STI management guidelines for use in primary care.](https://sti.guidelines.org.au/sexual-history/) (https://sti.guidelines.org.au/sexual-history/)

Patient Information:

- [Better Health Channel: Urinary Tract Infections \(UTI\)](https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/conditionsandtreatments/urinary-tract-infections-uti) (https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/conditionsandtreatments/urinary-tract-infections-uti)
- [UTI fact sheet from Kidney Health Australia](https://kidney.org.au/uploads/resources/KHA-Factsheet-urinary-tract-infections-2018.pdf) (https://kidney.org.au/uploads/resources/KHA-Factsheet-urinary-tract-infections-2018.pdf)
- [PSA self care fact sheet: Urinary Tract Infection \(Cystitis\)](https://www.psa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/4254-FC-Urinary-tract-infection_ekiosk.pdf) (https://www.psa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/4254-FC-Urinary-tract-infection_ekiosk.pdf)



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