

Interpreting the Guideline Symbols



Unshaded boxes represent points in the algorithm where actions are to be taken or information is to be collected (i.e., the “Significant History” information box asks the reader to take a medical history).



Shaded boxes are text blocks and are used to provide detailed information about an action to be taken or information to be collected (i.e., the “Significant History” text block defines the history information that is critical to collect to deal with the diagnoses addressed in the algorithm).



Diamonds represent decision points (i.e., the “Response to Initial Treatment” diamond asks the reader to decide at what level an intervention has been successful).



Ovals indicate end points (i.e., the “Refer to Specialist” circle indicates that the non-specialist should release the patient into the care of a specialist).



Arrows and connector lines mean that the reader should continue on in the direction indicated.



Broken arrows mean that readers should be aware that further diagnostic and treatment options exist, but that the remainder of the algorithm is intended for use by specialists following referral or consultation with the first contact physician.



Asterisks indicate a continuation of the algorithm to another page.



Clouds indicate that an intervention is highly controversial and although the information or procedure may be used in practice by some physicians, very little scientific evidence exists to support its effectiveness.