Community Pharmacy Thames Valley

Pharmacy First Clinical Pathways Update

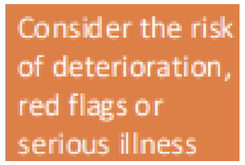
Pharmacy First Clinical Pathways changes October 2025

For all clinical pathways:

Link to NICE CKS

Link to NHS website

Red flag consideration



Key changes:

- Links to NICE CKS and NHS website
- More emphasis on red flag consideration
- Addition of gateway point for urgent escalation to A&E or calling 999 for all pathways
- Clarification of definitions on certain pathways

Links to the updated documents can be found here: NHS England » Community pharmacy advanced service specification: NHS Pharmacy First Service

To note:

Commencement of use of the new clinical pathways, PGDs and protocol is Wednesday 1st October. You must use the current pathways until then.

IT system suppliers are planning to amend their existing systems to incorporate the updates on the night of 30th September 2025 however contractors are advised to ensure these changes have been implemented on their individual systems.

Disclaimer:

These are the changes as highlighted by Community Pharmacy Surrey and Sussex for contractors reference. Please note, it remains the responsibility of all clinicians delivering the service to ensure they have read and understood the changes. This is not an exhaustive list of the changes therefore clinicians will need to read the documents published by NHS England and ensure they are confident in providing the service, are practising safely and in line with the service specification.

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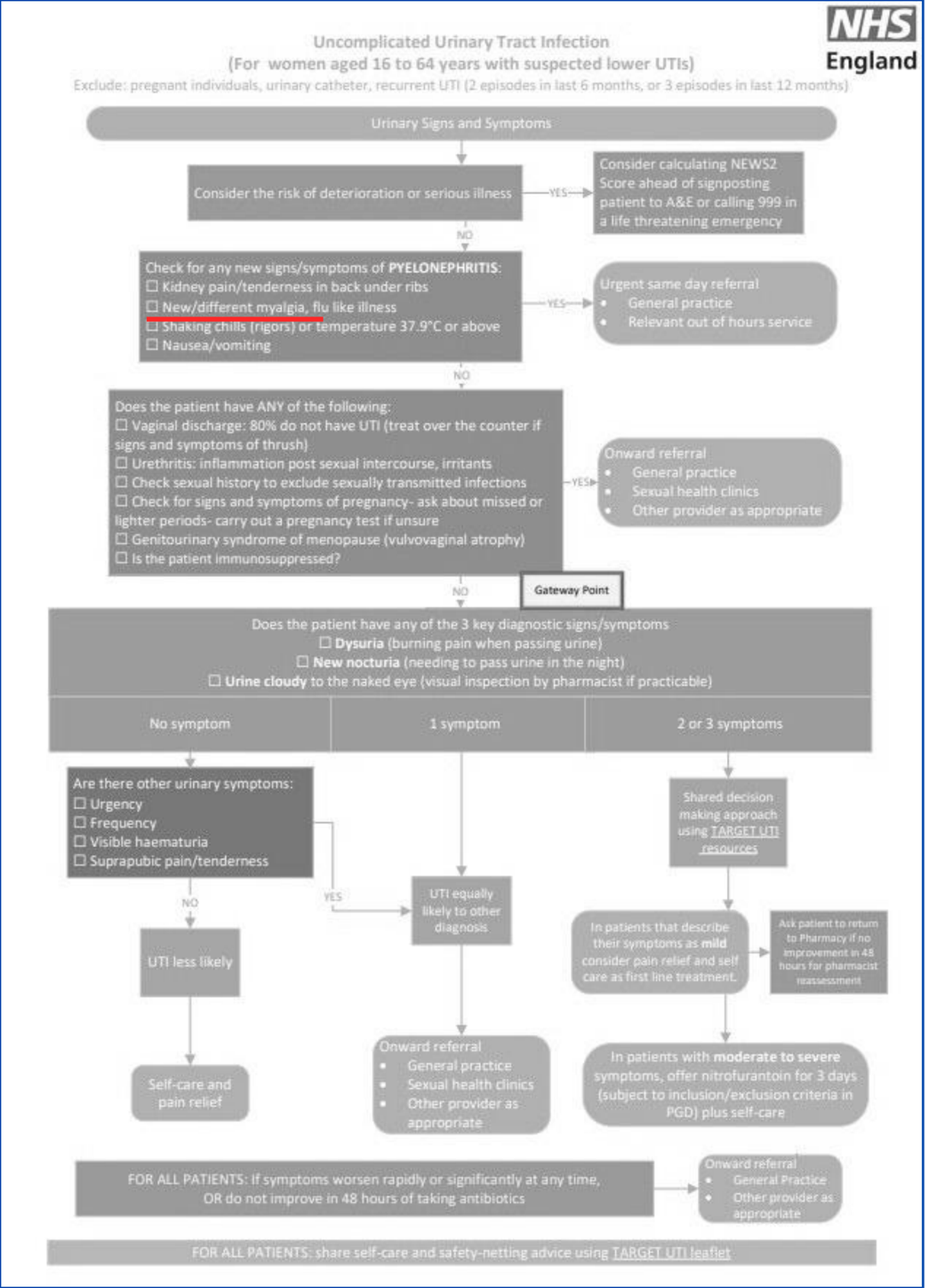

Women with diabetes excluded

New gateway point for escalating to A&E or calling 999

Pyelonephritis clarified

Urethritis clarified

Dysuria clarified

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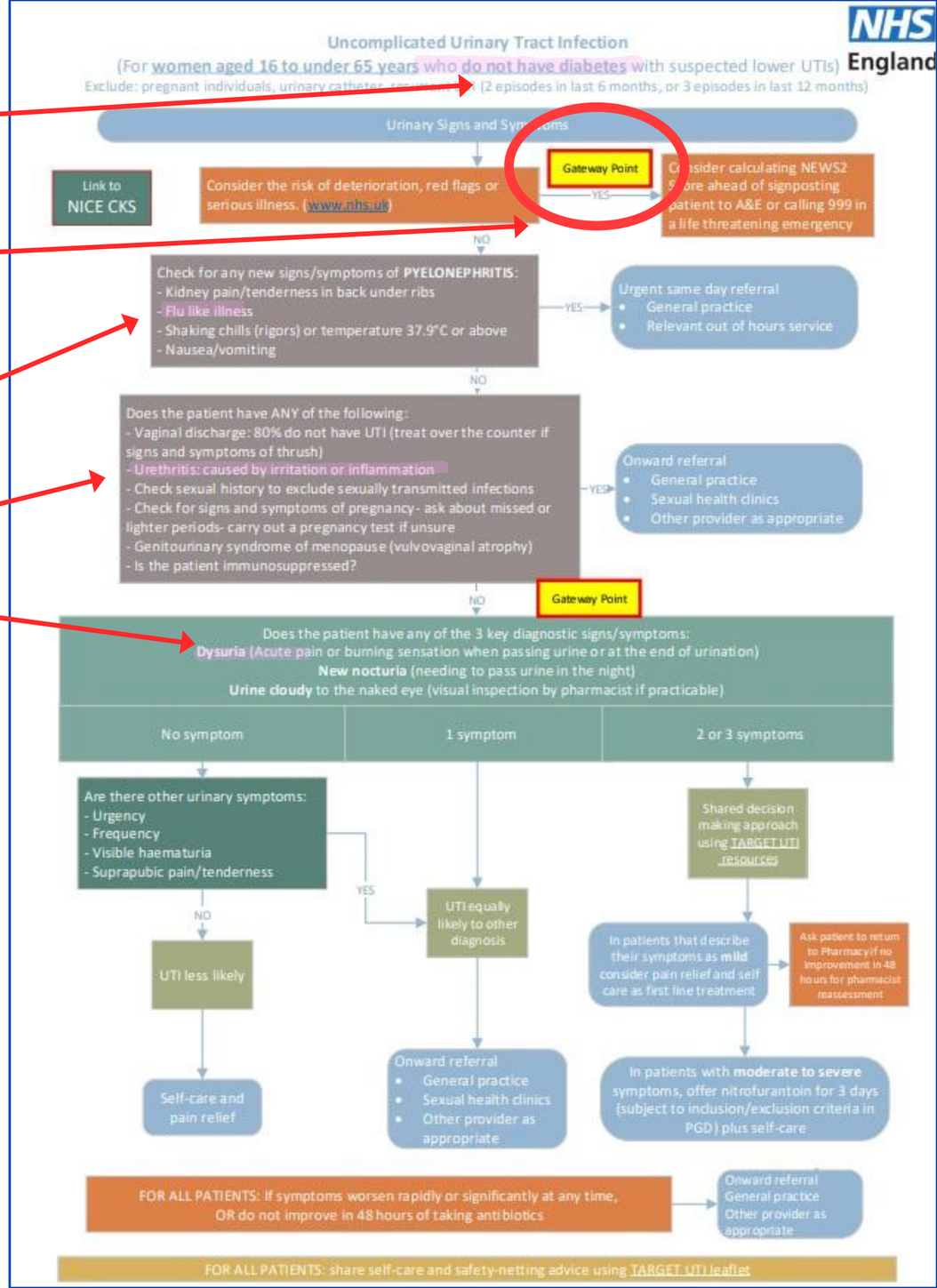

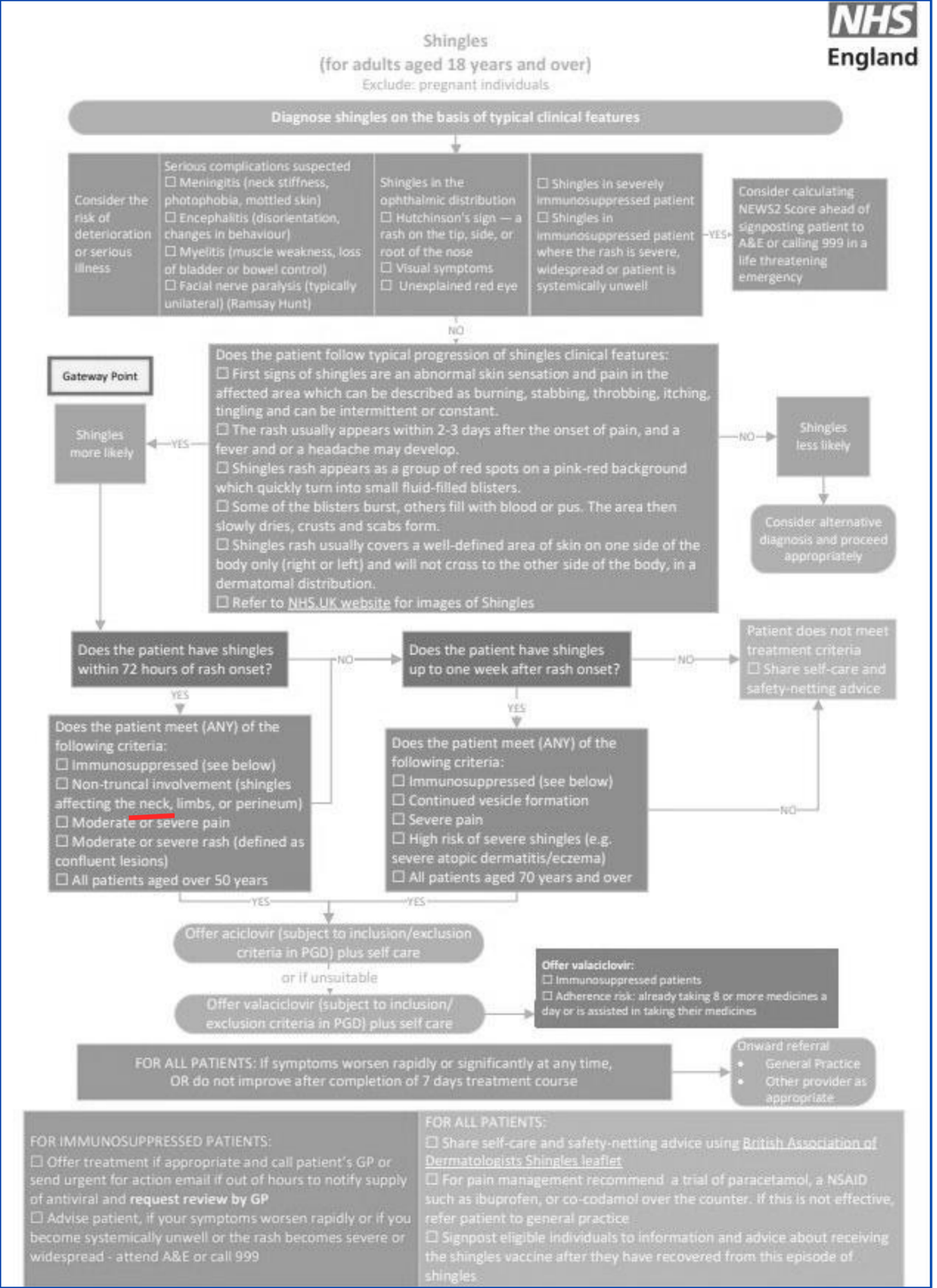

New gateway point for escalating to A&E or calling 999

Shingles affecting the head and neck added as red flag for onward referral

Gateway point moved so any suspicion of shingles in claimable

Non-truncal defined as limbs or perineum

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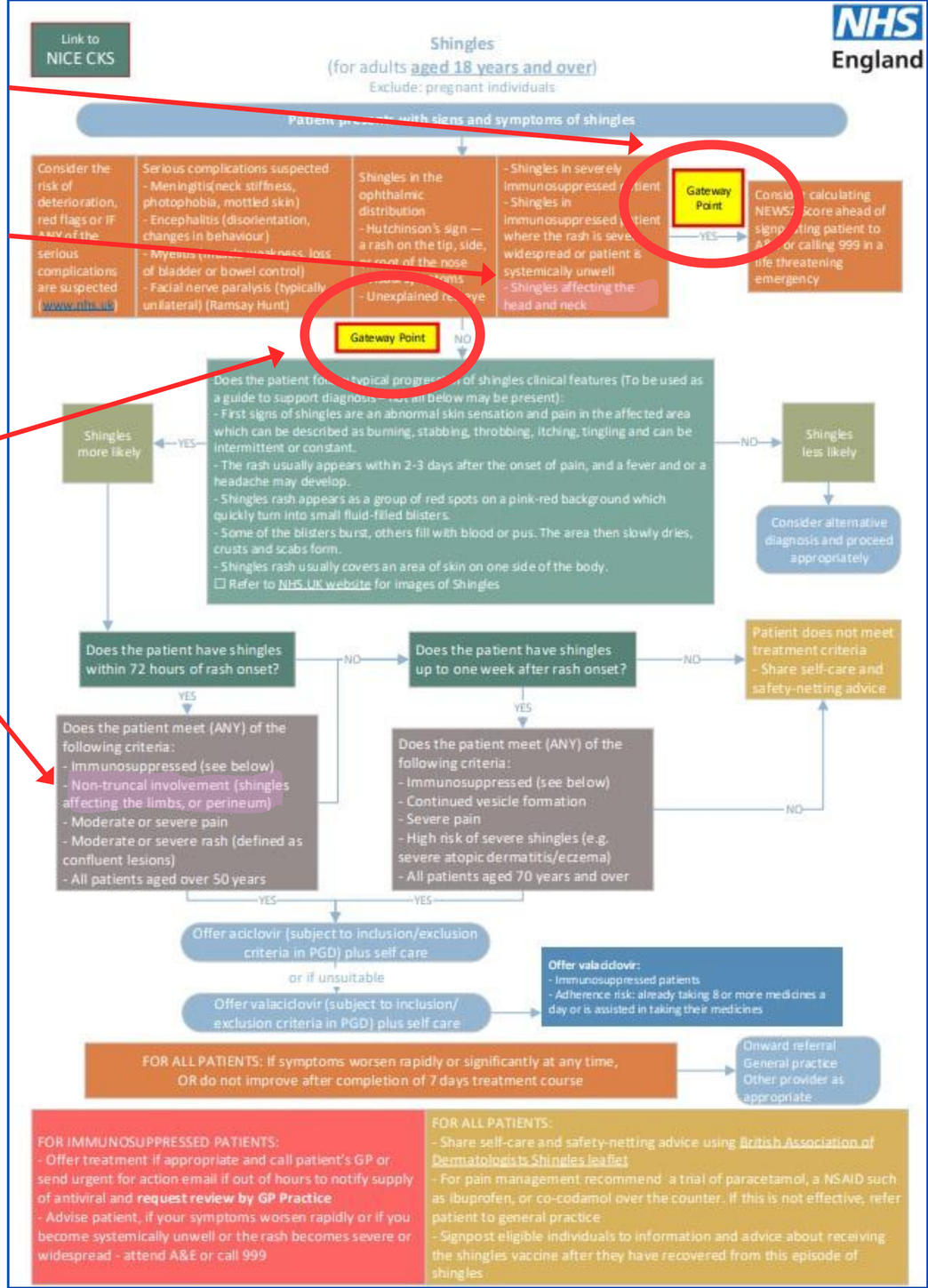

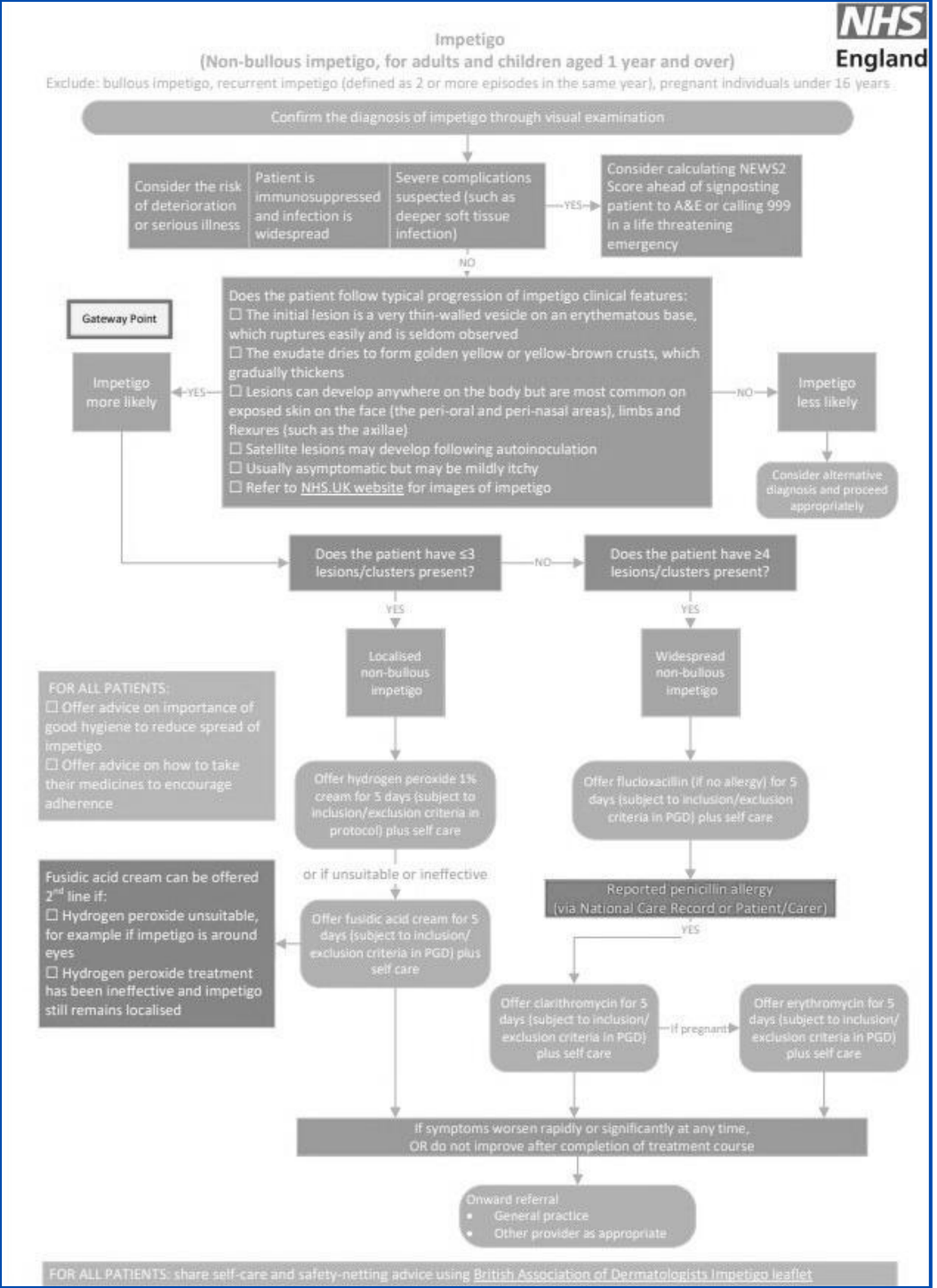

Examination must take place in consultation room

New gateway point for escalating to A&E or calling 999

Gateway point moved so any suspicion of Impetigo is claimable

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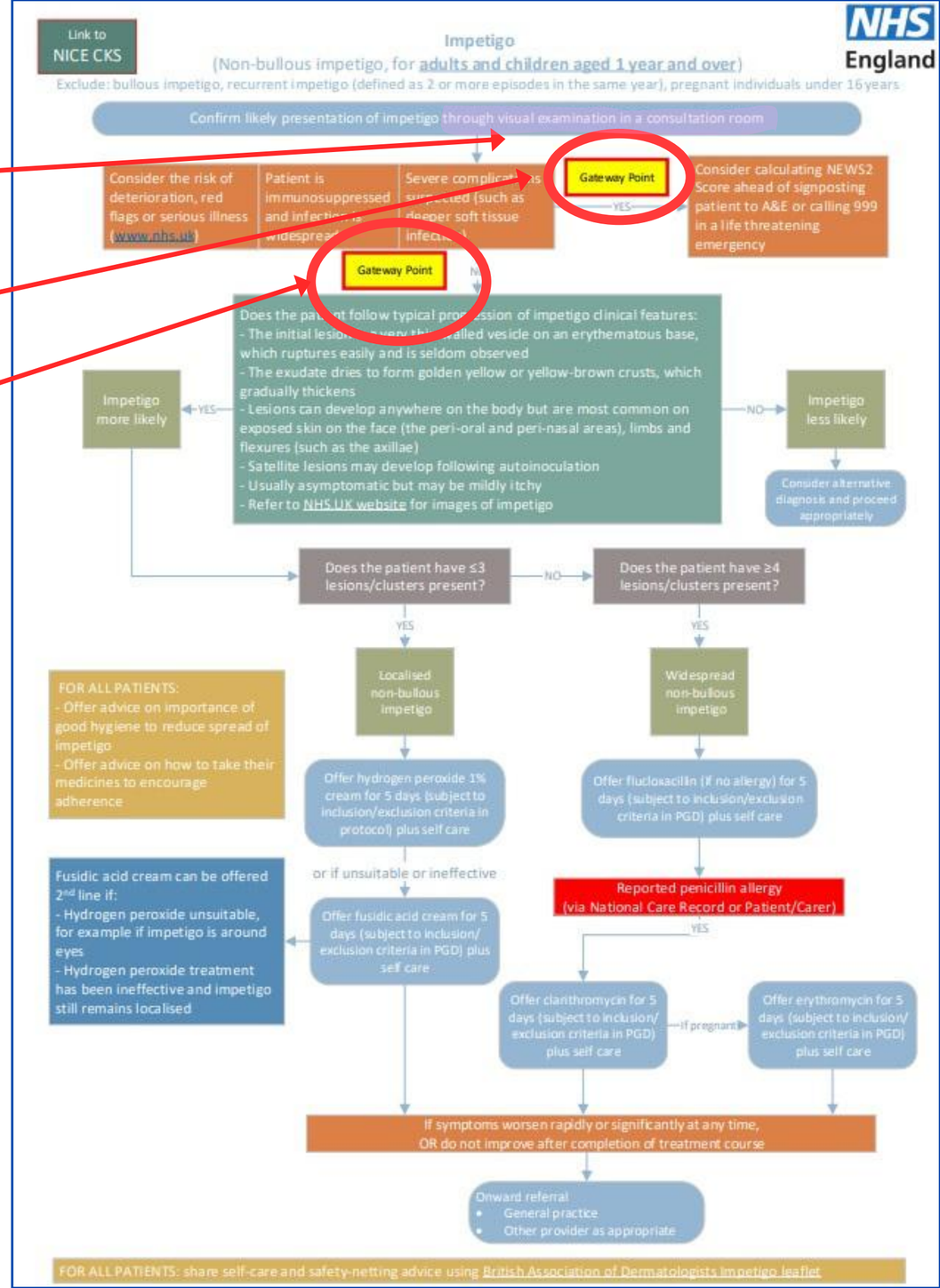

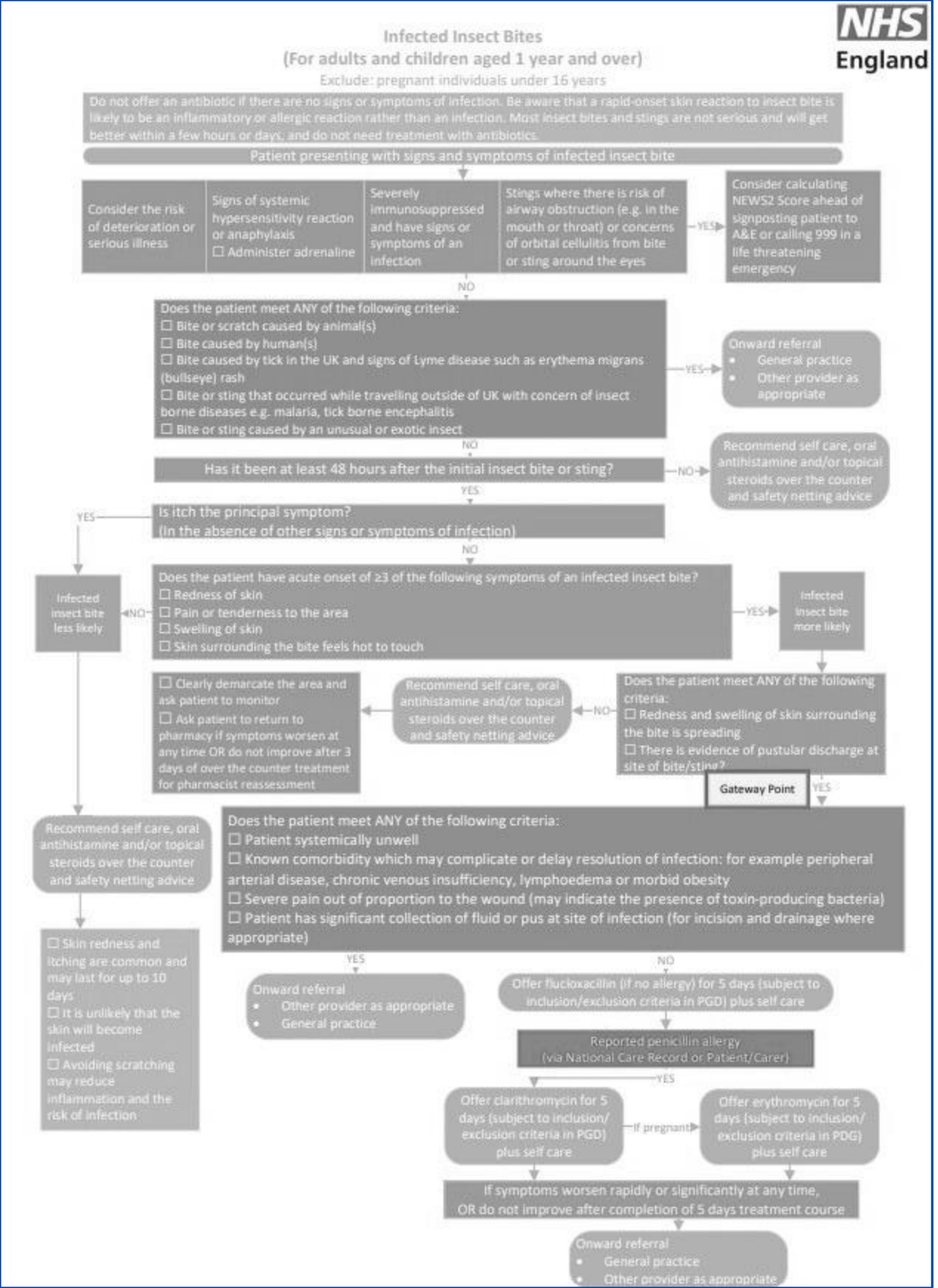

New red flags to consider added

New gateway point for escalating to A&E or calling 999

Gateway point moved to allow claiming for self care advice

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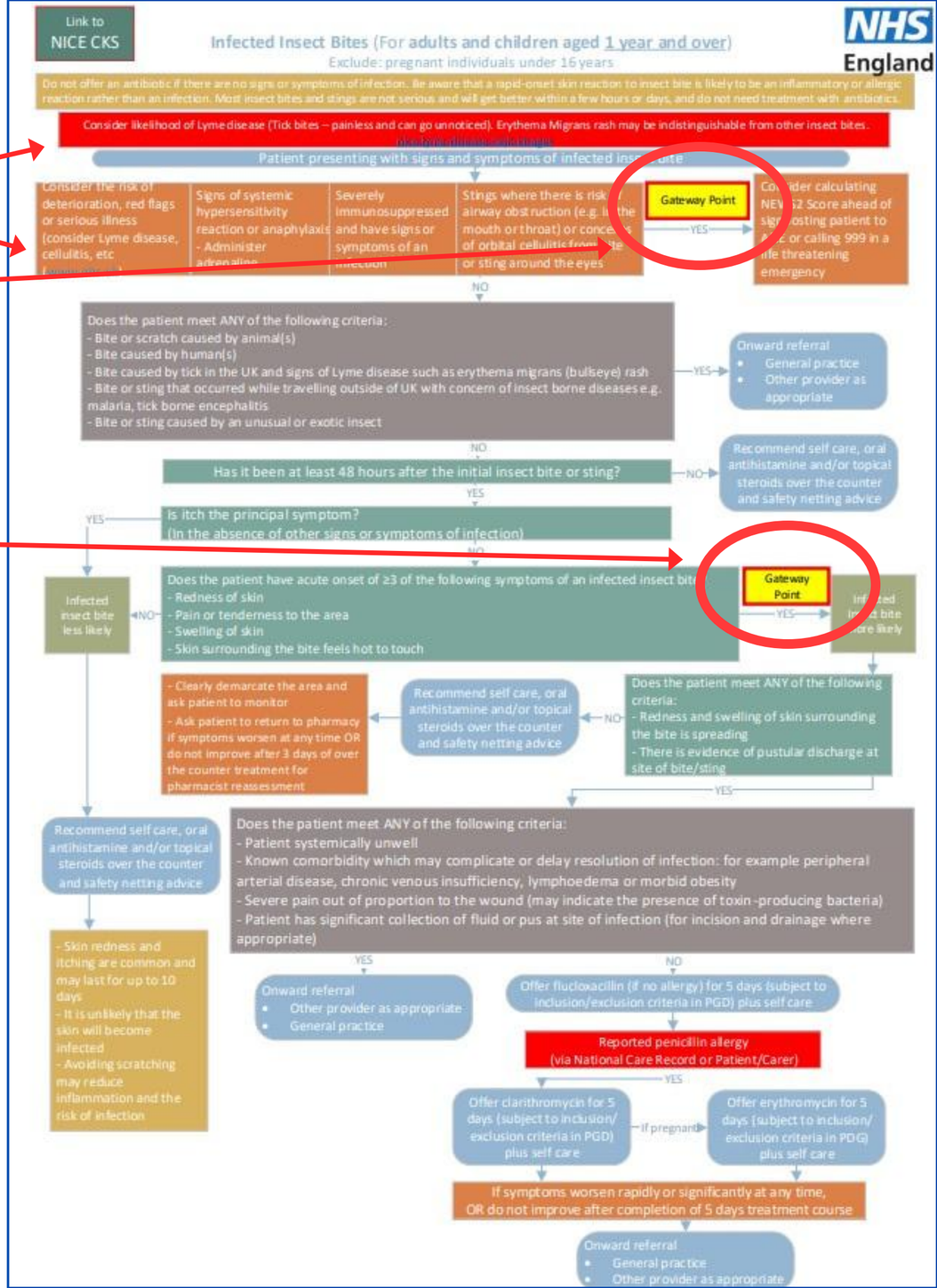

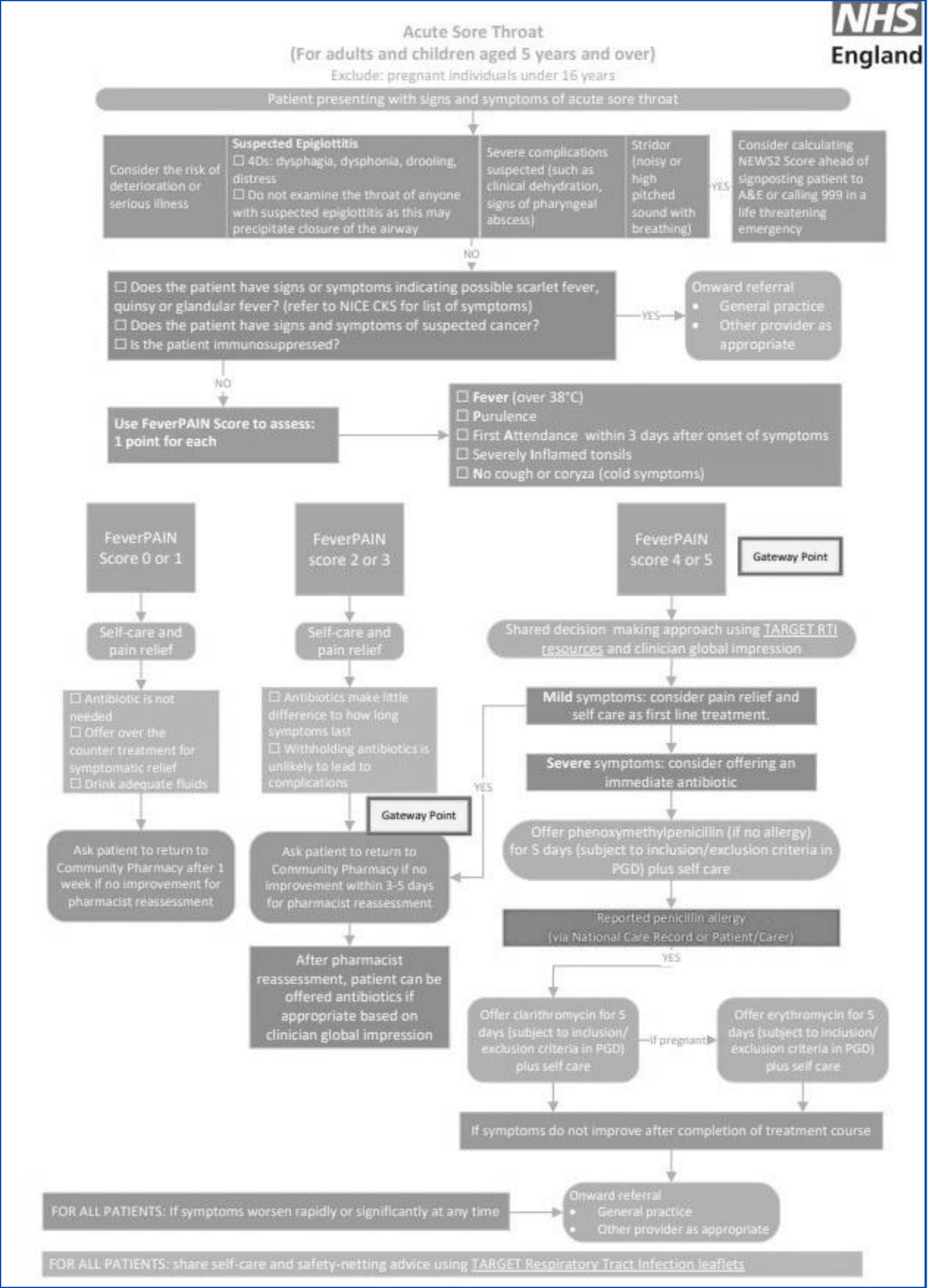

New gateway point added for escalating to A&E or calling 999

Children require a thorough consultation

Addition of possible signs of mouth/neck cancer

New gateway point added for self care advice if FeverPAIN score 2 or 3

New gateway point added for returning patients

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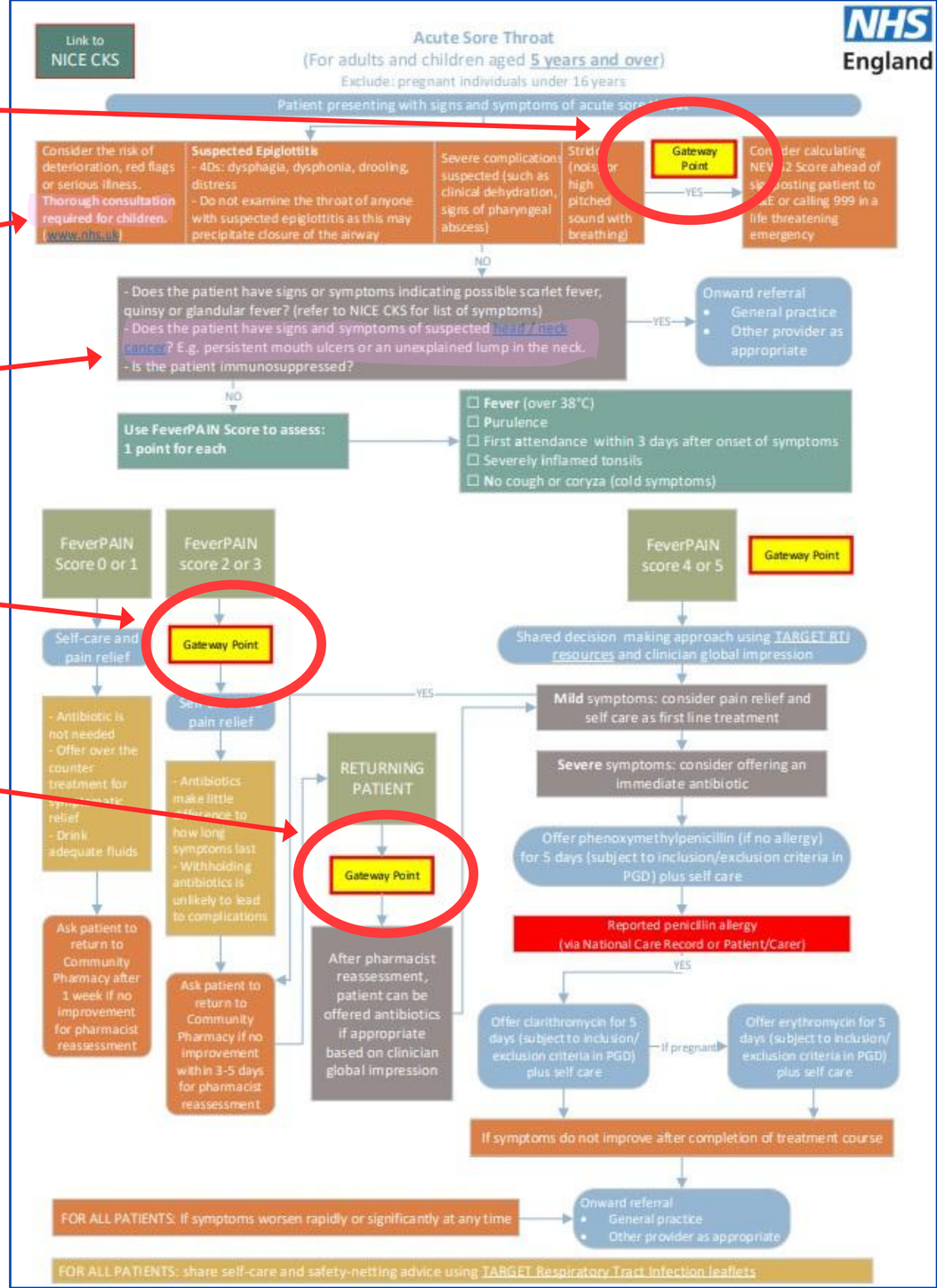
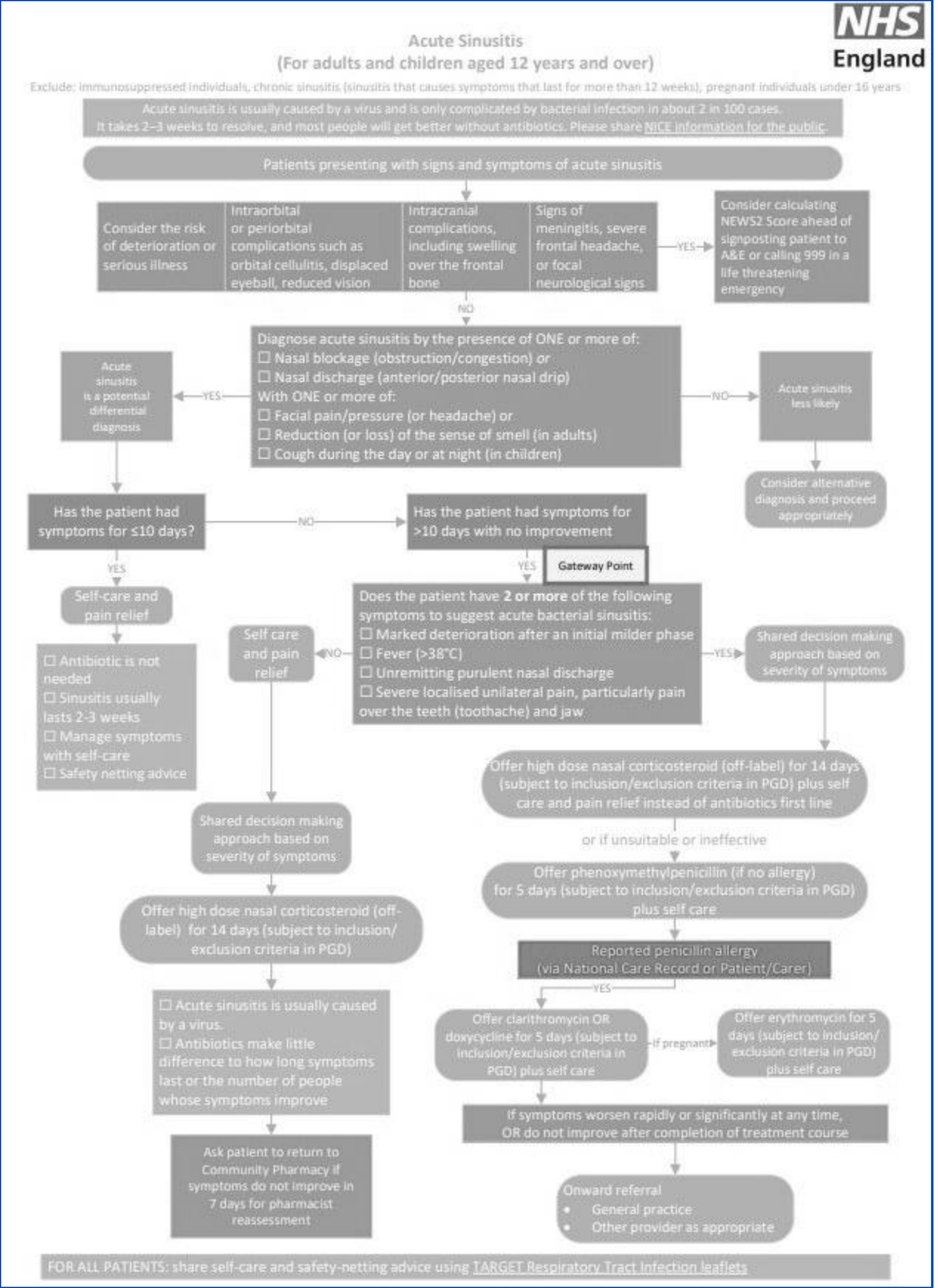
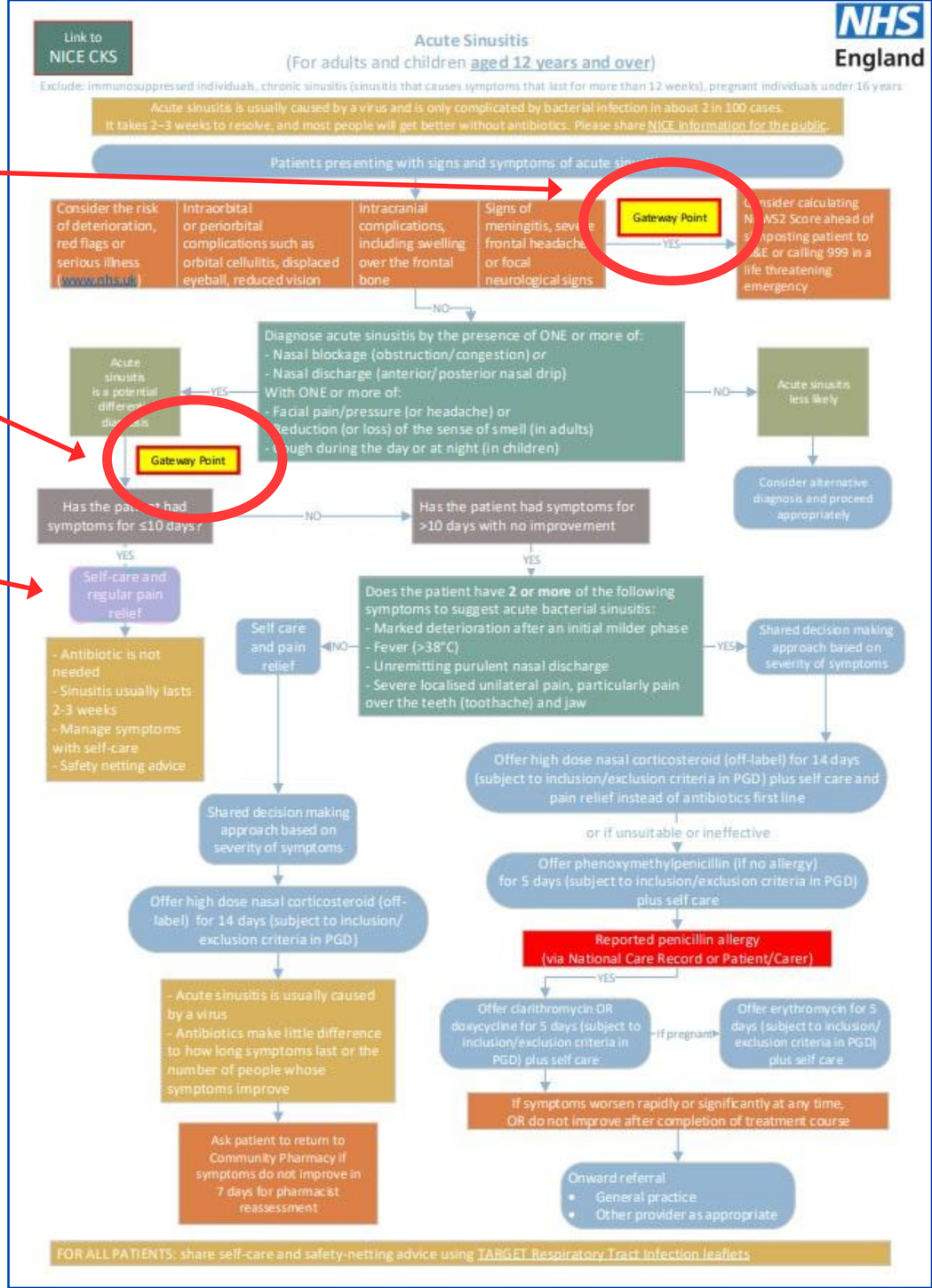




New gateway point added for escalating to A&E or calling 999

Gateway point moved to allow claiming for acute sinusitis as a potential differential diagnosis

Addition of regular pain relief



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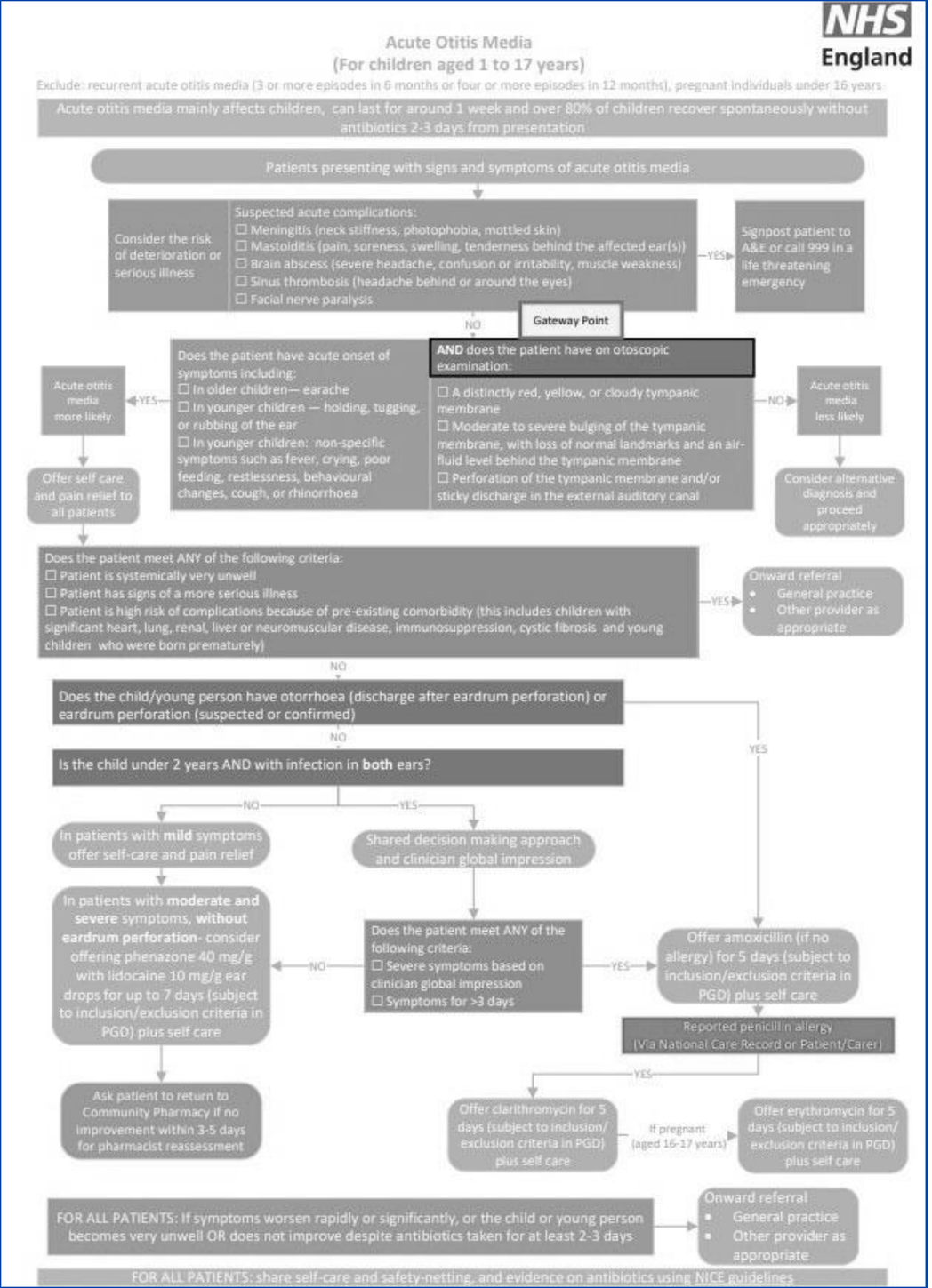

New gateway point added for escalating to A&E or calling 999

Gateway point moved for clearer otoscopic exam requirements

Addition of regular pain relief

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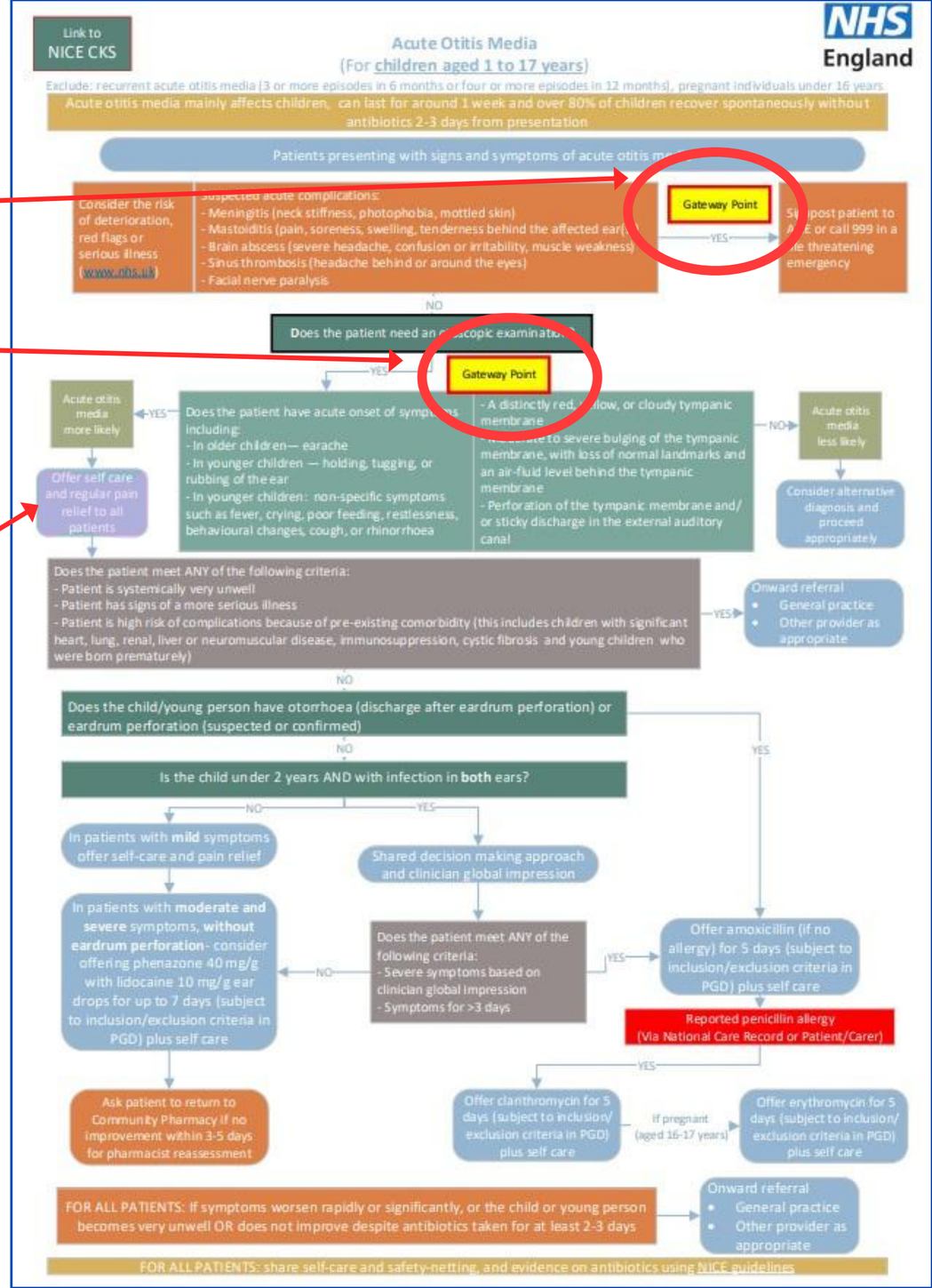

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