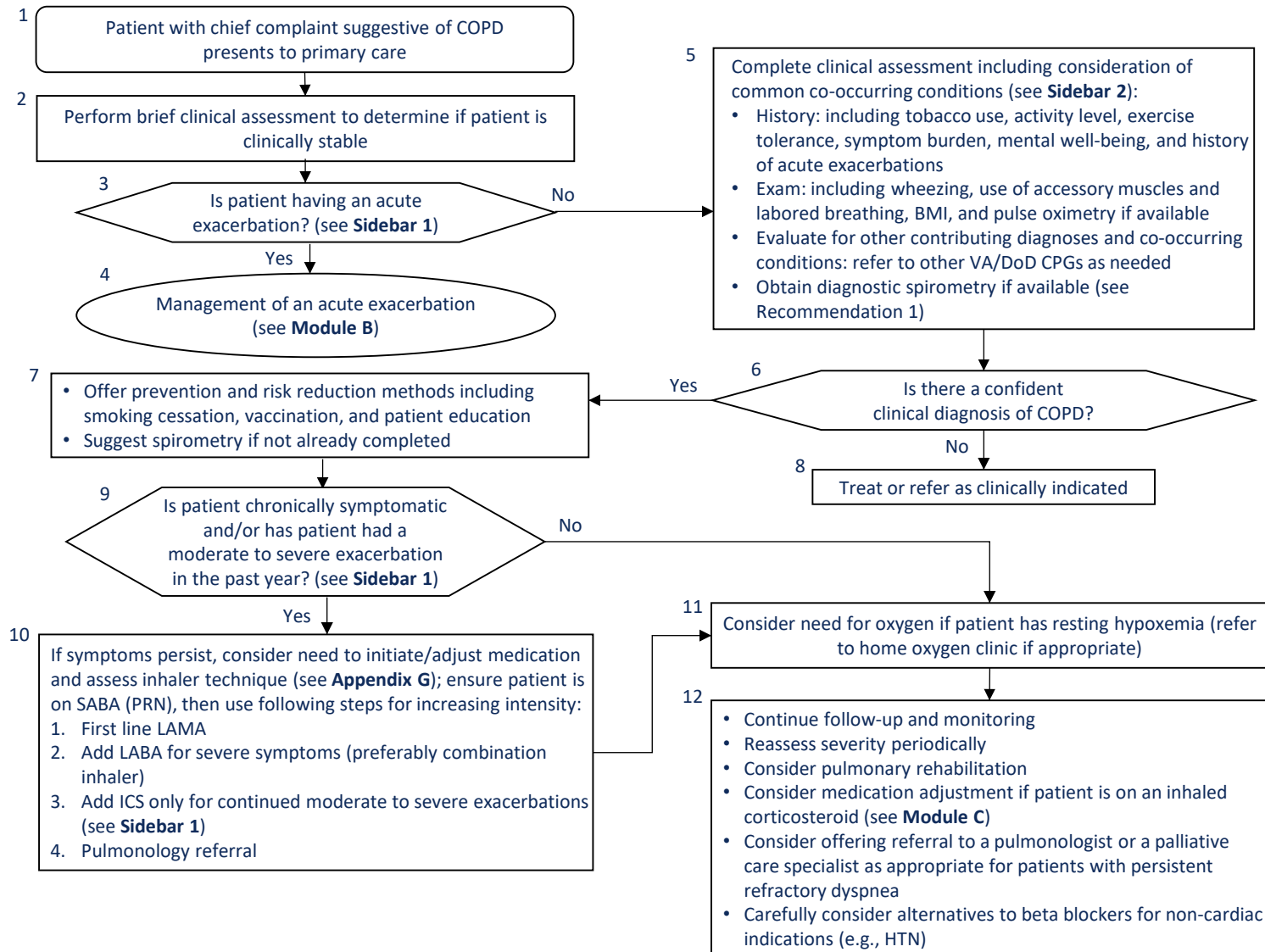


# The Management of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)



## Module A: Management of COPD in Primary Care



### Sidebar 1: Definition of Exacerbations

Increased dyspnea above day-to-day variability with or without change in sputum amount or color. Moderate to severe exacerbations are those that require antibiotics and/or systemic corticosteroids. Patients with exacerbation within the past six months would be considered to have “severe COPD.”

### Sidebar 2: Common Comorbidities

- CVD
- CHF
- Pulmonary embolism
- Sleep disorders
- Poor nutritional status (both under & over nutrition)
- Gastroesophageal reflux
- Depression
- Anxiety

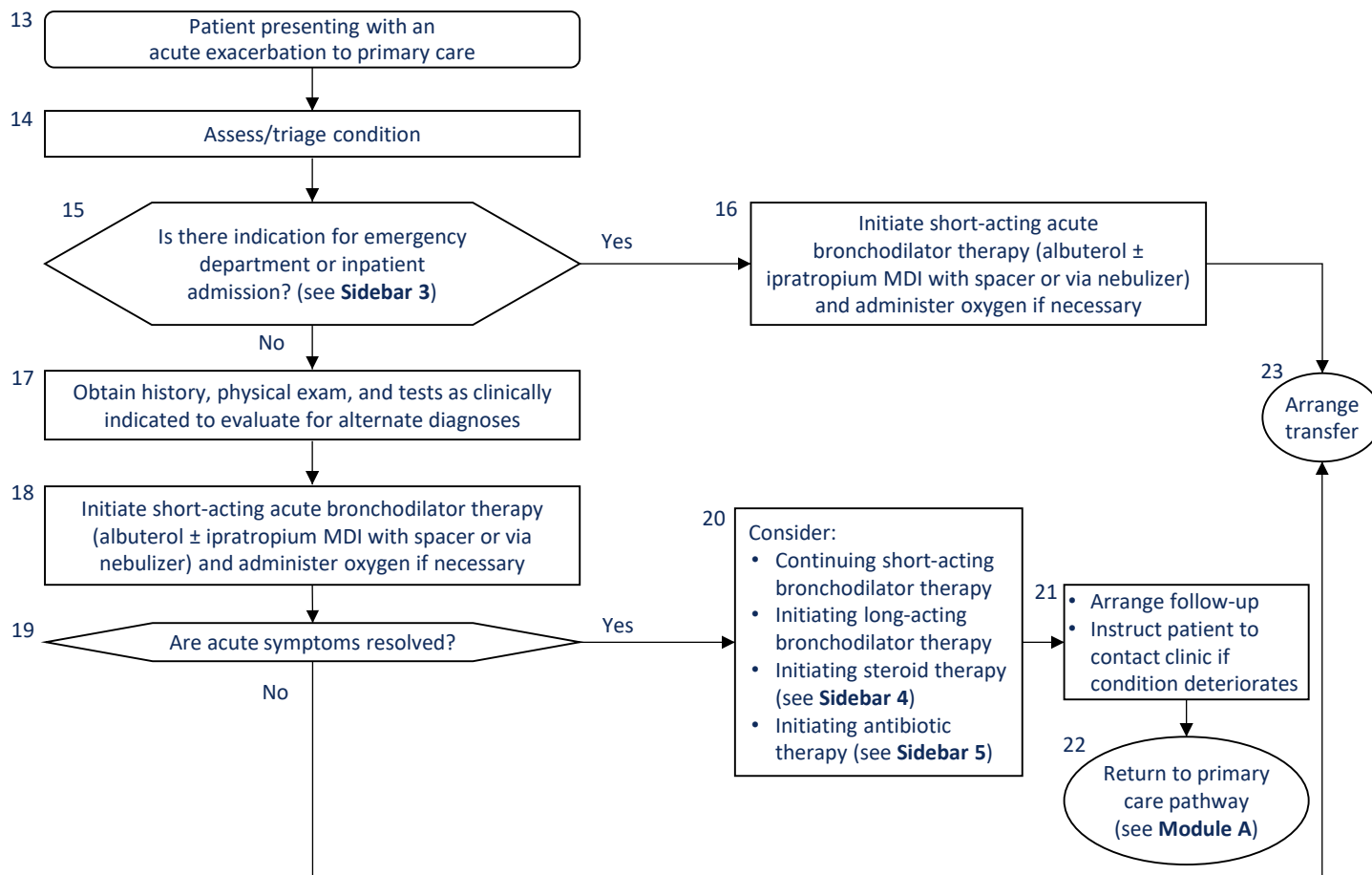
**Abbreviations:** BMI: body mass index; CHF: congestive heart failure; COPD: chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; CPG: clinical practice guideline; CVD: cardiovascular disease; HTN: hypertension; ICS: inhaled corticosteroid; kg: kilogram; LABA: long-acting beta 2-agonist; LAMA: long-acting antimuscarinic agent; m: meter; MDI: metered-dose inhaler; mg: milligram; PRN: pro re nata (as needed); SABA: short-acting beta 2-agonist; SaO<sub>2</sub>: peripheral capillary oxygen saturation; SMX: sulfamethoxazole; TMP: trimethoprim; VA/DoD: Department of Veterans Affairs/Department of Defense

Access to the full guideline and additional resources is available at the following link:

<https://www.healthquality.va.gov/guidelines/CD/copd/>



## Module B: Management of Acute COPD Exacerbations



## Sidebar 3: Criteria for Possible Admission

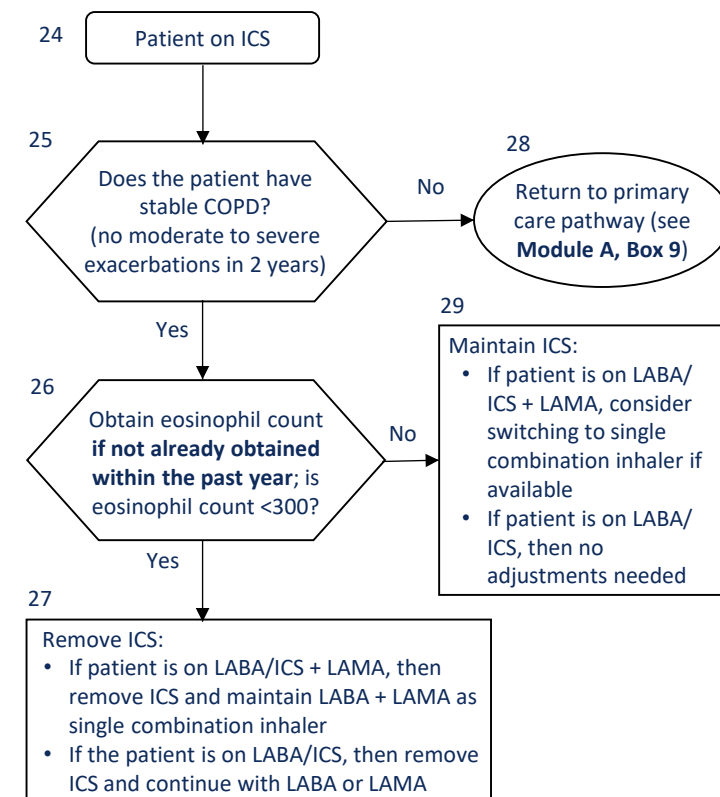
- Accessible muscle use
- Tachypnea
- Hypoxemia or hypercapnea above baseline
- Failure to respond to initial therapy
- Clinical judgement

## Sidebar 4: Initiating Steroid Therapy

## Oral glucocorticoid:

- 30 – 40 mg daily prednisone equivalent for 5 – 7 days
- No benefit in higher doses
- Generally no benefit in longer duration

## Module C: Inhaled Corticosteroid Usage



## Sidebar 5: Initiating Antibiotic Therapy

## Antibiotic choice:

- Amoxicillin
- Amoxicillin/clavulanate
- Azithromycin
- Doxycycline
- Second generation cephalosporin
- Trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole (TMP-SMX)
- Reserve broader spectrum antibiotics for severe or specific risk