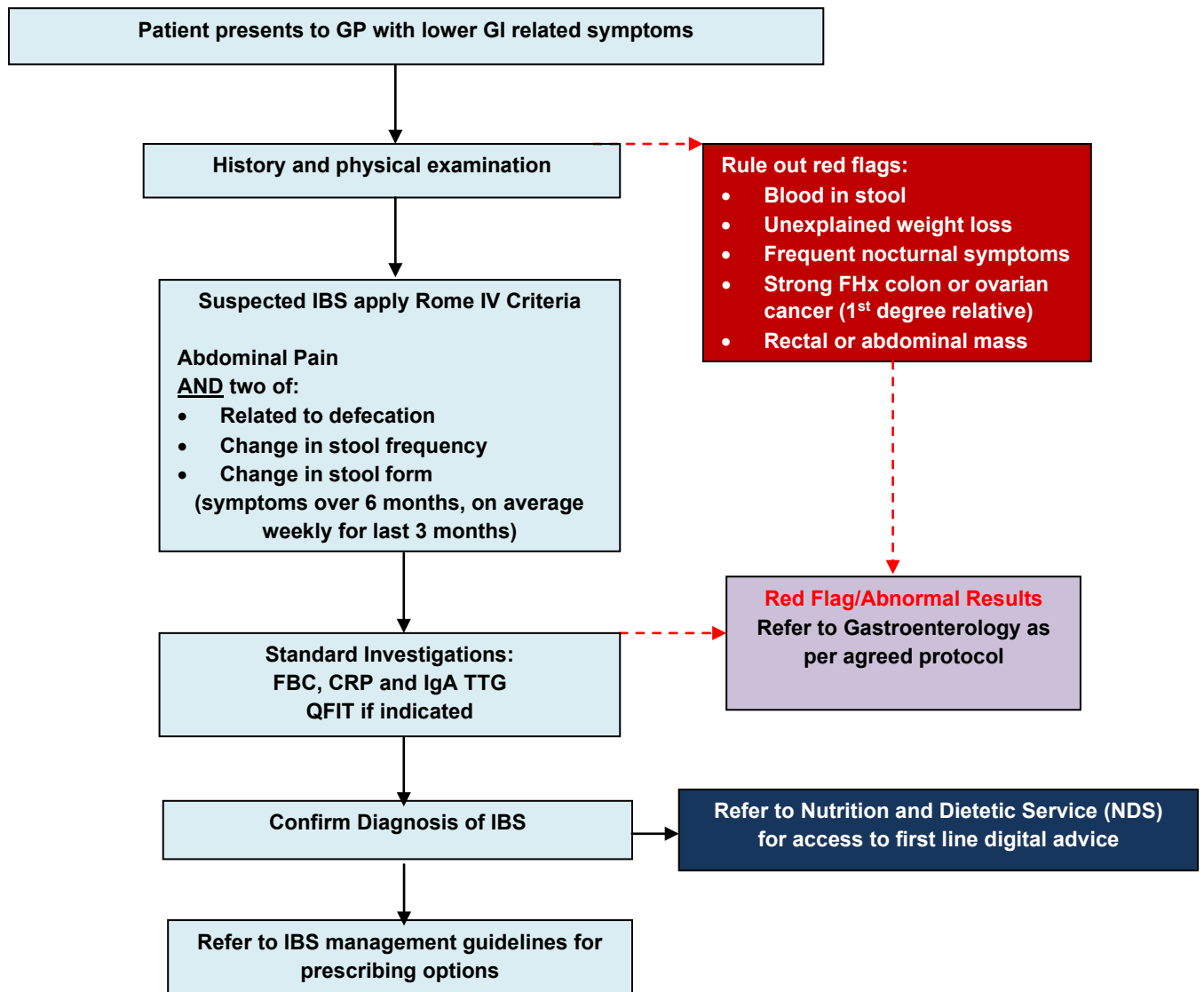


**Irritable Bowel Syndrome Assessment and Diagnosis in Primary Care Pathway**  
**(16 - 40 years)**



**NOTES:**

1. Pathway may be applied with caution to 41-49 year age range, ensure red flags ruled out.
2. Family history of colon cancer is especially relevant if a first degree relative (FDR) <50yrs is affected, or if there are 2 FDRs affected at an older age.
3. Faecal immunochemical tests for human haemoglobin (FIT) are useful in identifying patients with a higher probability of organic colonic disease.
4. In patients with persistent watery diarrhoea not responding to Rx, consider the possibility of microscopic colitis and possible need for colonic biopsies.
5. Carry out appropriate tests for ovarian cancer in any woman of 50 or over who has experienced symptoms within the last 12 months that suggest irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) because IBS rarely presents for the first time in women of this age.

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Approved by GP Sub Committee Sept 2023

For Review Dec 2027