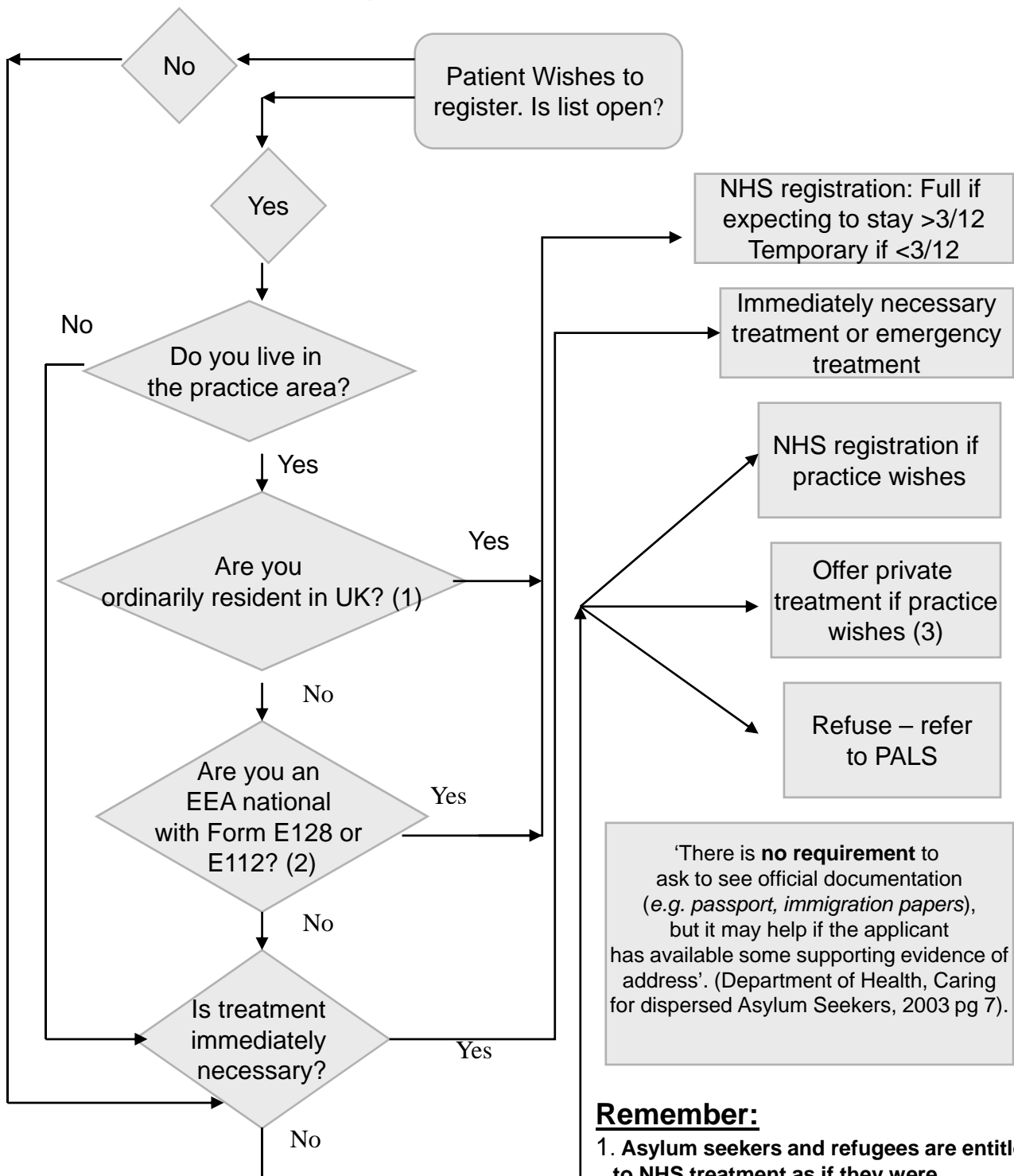


Patient Eligibility Criteria



(1), (2), (3): See over for definitions:

Remember:

1. Asylum seekers and refugees are entitled to NHS treatment as if they were ordinarily resident in the UK.
2. Any GP who refers an overseas visitor to hospital should warn the patient that she/he is liable to be charged by the hospital, even if the GP has treated the patient under the NHS.
3. The question of whether a patient comes from a country with bilateral healthcare agreements with the UK is generally irrelevant to primary care but may have more significance for hospital treatment.
4. All hospitals are entitled to establish whether a person is "ordinarily resident" in the UK, as this should give a right to secondary care.

Definitions

(1) '**Ordinarily resident**': For the purposes of both primary and secondary care, a person is regarded as ordinarily resident if he or she is living in the UK for a 'settled purpose'. Generally this means work or study, and the purpose must have sufficient continuity to be properly described as settled. This usually means intending to stay for at least 6 months. HSC 1999/018.

Asylum Seekers: 'A person who has formally applied for asylum in the United Kingdom is entitled to NHS treatment without charge for as long as their application (including appeals) is under consideration' (Department of Health, 2003).

(2) **European Economic Area Member States** (EEA Nationals): Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Irish Republic, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, UK, plus Switzerland.

E128 Form: EEA Nationals who have a form E128 are entitled to treatment on the same basis as UK residents. They are issued to people who have come to the UK to work or study, and any members of their family who accompany them.

E112 Form: Patients from EEA member countries with E112 are eligible for free medical treatment of the specified condition. (LMC guidance to GPs on the Treatment of Overseas Visitors, 8/2000).

(3) The Department of Health Circular 1999/018 encourages GPs in such circumstances to treat the patient, on a private, paying basis.