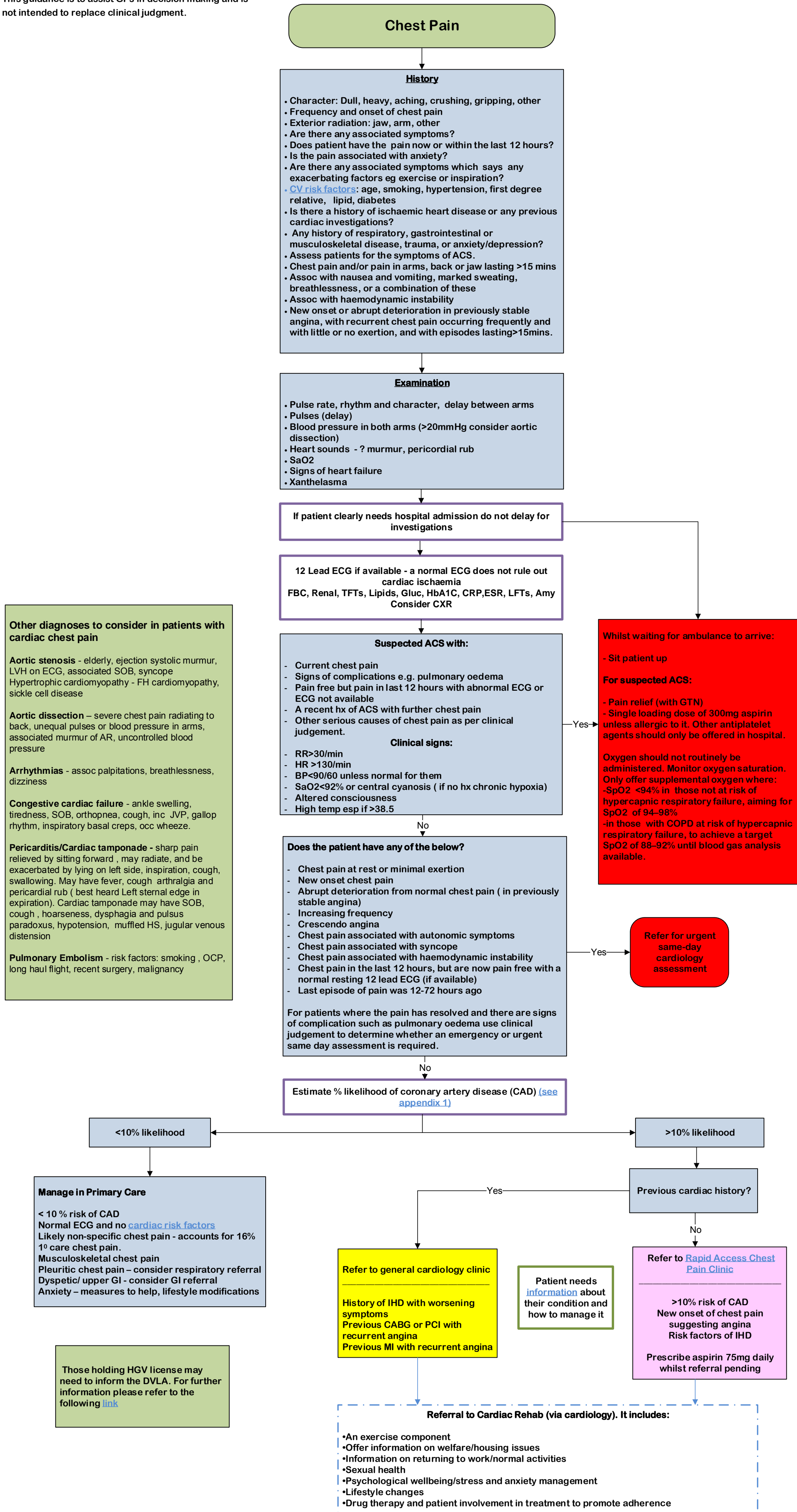


## Chest Pain Pathway

This pathway has been developed from published guidance, in collaboration with local cardiologists.

This guidance is to assist GPs in decision making and is not intended to replace clinical judgment.



**Appendix 1 Percentage of people estimated to have coronary artery disease according to typicality of symptoms, age, sex and risk factors**

		Non-anginal chest pain				Atypical angina <sup>*1</sup>				Typical angina <sup>*2</sup>			
		Men		Women		Men		Women		Men		Women	
Low/high risk		Lo	Hi			Lo	Hi			Lo	Hi		
Age (years)	35	3	35			8	59			30	88		
	45	9	47			21	70			51	92		
	55	23	59			45	79			80	95		
	65	49	69			71	86			93	97		
<p>For men older than 70 with atypical or typical symptoms, assume an estimate &gt; 90%.</p> <p>For women older than 70, assume an estimate of 61–90% EXCEPT women at high risk AND with typical symptoms where a risk of &gt; 90% should be assumed.</p>													

Values are per cent of people at each mid-decade age with significant coronary artery disease (CAD)<sup>[a]</sup>.

**Hi** = High risk = diabetes, smoking and hyperlipidaemia (total cholesterol > 6.47 mmol/litre).

**Lo** = Low risk = none of these three.

The 'non-anginal chest pain' columns represent people with symptoms of non-anginal chest pain, who would not be investigated for stable angina routinely.

Note:

These results are likely to overestimate CAD in primary care populations.

If there are resting ECG ST-T changes or Q waves, the likelihood of CAD is higher in each cell of the table.

<sup>[a]</sup> Adapted from Pryor DB, Shaw L, McCants CB et al. (1993) Value of the history and physical in identifying patients at increased risk for coronary artery disease. Annals of Internal Medicine 118(2): 81–90.

**\*1 Atypical angina** presents with two of the above features.  
In addition, atypical symptoms include gastrointestinal discomfort, and/or breathlessness and/or nausea.

**\*2 Typical angina** presents with all three of the following features:  
Precipitated by physical exertion.  
Constricting discomfort anterior chest, neck, shoulders, jaw, or arms.  
Relieved by rest or GTN within 5 mins.