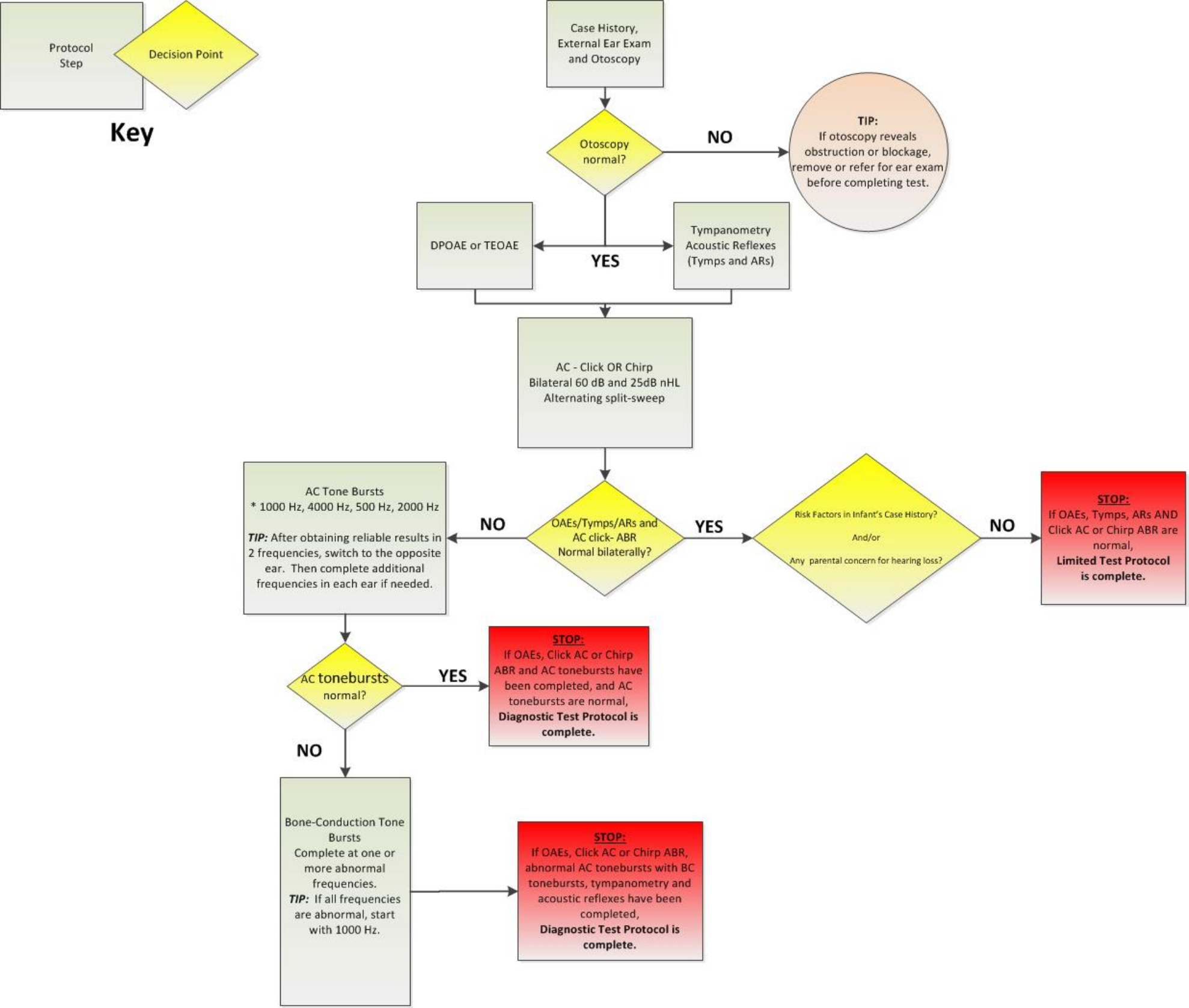
Protocol Step
Decision Point
Key
Case History, External Ear Exam and Otoscopy
Otoscopy normal?
NO
TIP:
If otoscopy reveals obstruction or blockage, remove or refer for ear exam before completing test.
DPOAE or TEOAE
YES
Tympanometry Acoustic Reflexes (Tymps and ARs)
AC - Click OR Chirp
Bilateral 60 dB and 25dB nHL
Alternating split-sweep
AC Tone Bursts
* 1000 Hz, 4000 Hz, 500 Hz, 2000 Hz
TIP: After obtaining reliable results in 2 frequencies, switch to the opposite ear. Then complete additional frequencies in each ear if needed.
NO
OAEs/Tymps/ARs and AC click- ABR Normal bilaterally?
YES
Risk Factors in Infant's Case History?
And/or
Any parental concern for hearing loss?
NO
STOP:
If OAEs, Tymps, ARs AND Click AC or Chirp ABR are normal,
Limited Test Protocol is complete.
AC toneburstsnormal?
YES
STOP:
If OAEs, Click AC or Chirp ABR and AC tonebursts have been completed, and AC tonebursts are normal,
Diagnostic Test Protocol is complete.
NO
Bone-Conduction Tone Bursts
Complete at one or more abnormal frequencies.
TIP: If all frequencies are abnormal, start with 1000 Hz.
STOP:
If OAEs, Click AC or Chirp ABR, abnormal AC tonebursts with BC tonebursts, tympanometry and acoustic reflexes have been completed,
Diagnostic Test Protocol is complete.