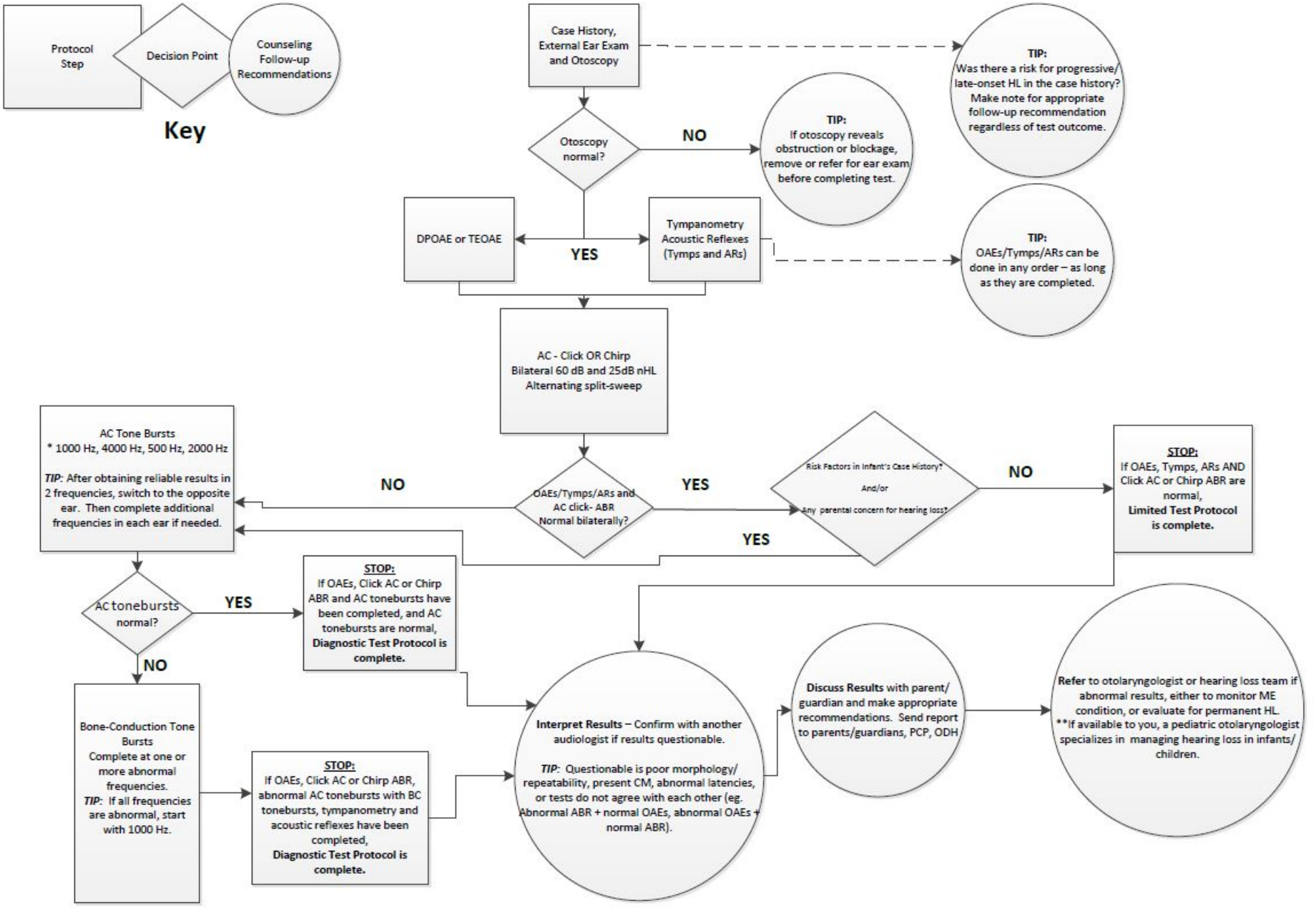
Protocol Step
Decision Point
Counseling Follow-up Recommendations
Key
Case History, External Ear Exam and Otoscopy
TIP: Was there a risk for progressive/ late-onset HL in the case history? Make note for appropriate follow-up recommendation regardless of test outcome.
Otoscopy normal?
NO
TIP: If otoscopy reveals obstruction or blockage, remove or refer for ear exam before completing test.
DPOAE or TEOAE
YES
Tympanometry Acoustic Reflexes (Tymps and ARs)
TIP: OAEs/Tymps/ARs can be done in any order – as long as they are completed.
AC - Click OR Chirp Bilateral 60 dB and 25dB nHL Alternating split-sweep
OAEs/Tymps/ARs and AC click- ABR Normal bilaterally?
NO
YES
Risk Factors in Infant's Case History?
And/or
Any parental concern for hearing loss?
NO
YES
STOP: If OAEs, Tymps, ARs AND Click AC or Chirp ABR are normal, Limited Test Protocol is complete.
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.
AC toneburst normal?
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.
Interpret Results – Confirm with another audiologist if results questionable.
TIP: Questionable is poor morphology/ repeatability, present CM, abnormal latencies, or tests do not agree with each other (eg. Abnormal ABR + normal OAEs, abnormal OAEs + normal ABR).
Discuss Results with parent/ guardian and make appropriate recommendations. Send report to parents/guardians, PCP, ODH
Refer to otolaryngologist or hearing loss team if abnormal results, either to monitor ME condition, or evaluate for permanent HL.
**If available to you, a pediatric otolaryngologist specializes in managing hearing loss in infants/ children.