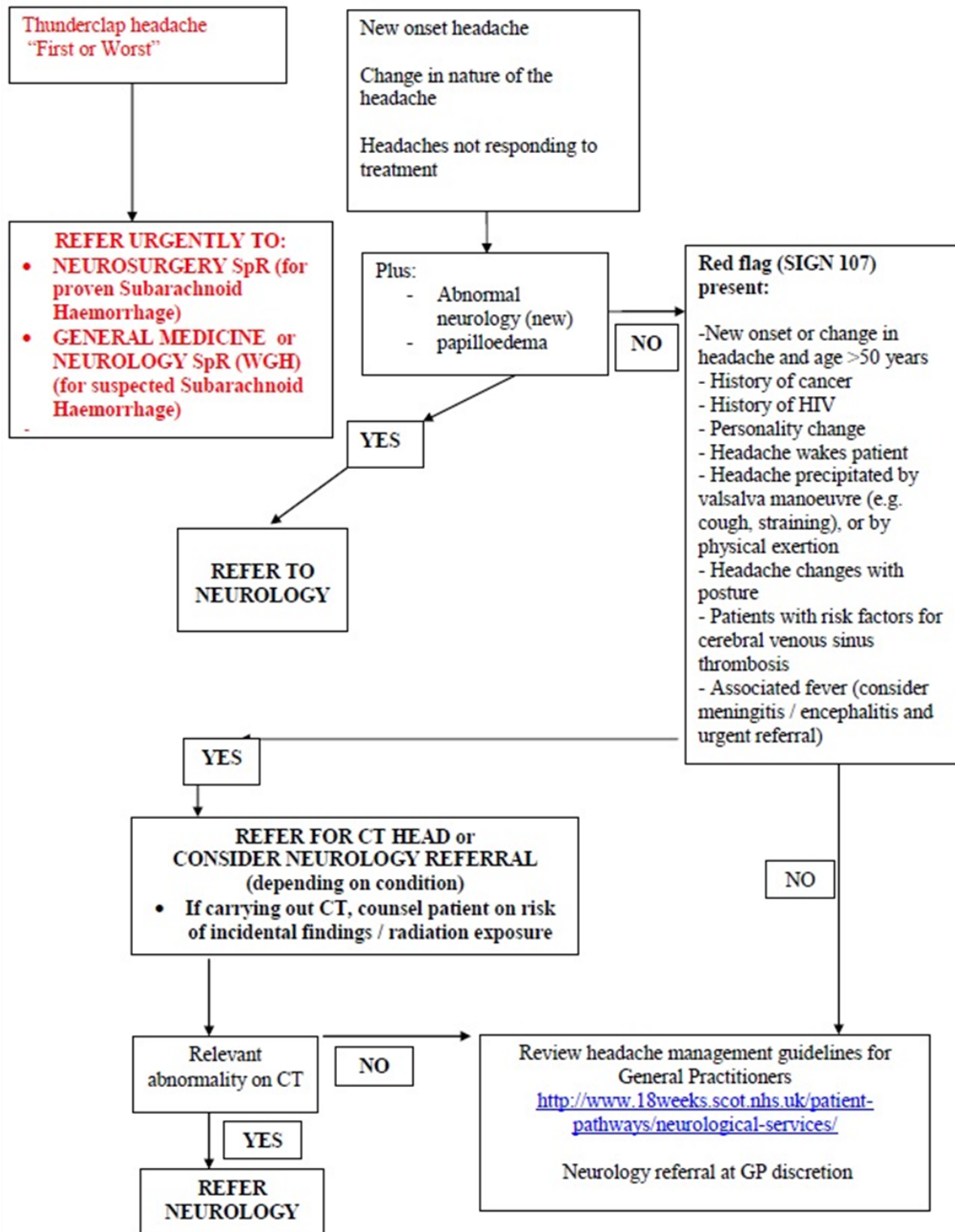


HEADACHE in NHS Lothian – TO CT OR NOT TO CT



There is no evidence that performing CT head 'for reassurance' does relieve health anxiety on average in the long term and may worsen anxiety in some because of a 10% risks of incidental findings/ artefact. One CT head scan is equivalent to 100 chest x rays of radiation exposure (or one year of background radiation). Neither CT or MRI detect all sinister causes of headache.