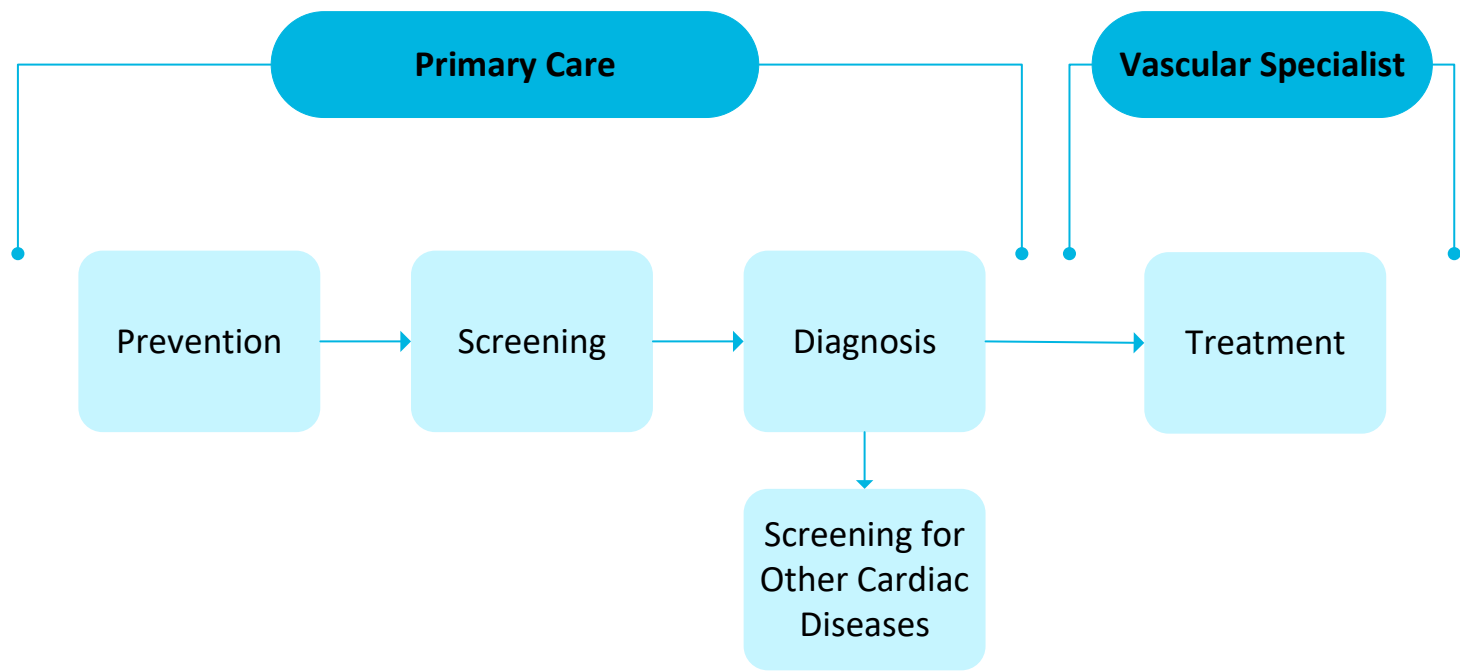


Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA) Screening and Diagnosis Pathway Map

Version 2024.01



Disclaimer: The pathway map is intended to be used for informational purposes only. The pathway map is not intended to constitute or be a substitute for medical advice and should not be relied upon in any such regard. Further, all pathway maps are subject to clinical judgment and actual practice patterns may not follow the proposed steps set out in the pathway map. In the situation where the reader is not a health care provider, the reader should always consult a healthcare provider if they have any questions regarding the information set out in the pathway map. The information in the pathway map does not create a physician-patient relationship between Ontario Health and the reader.



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






Target Population

Men and women aged 65 to 80 in Ontario can be referred to the Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA) Screening Program for a limited study abdominal ultrasound risk assessment.

Pathway Map Considerations

- The AAA screening program offers a one time non-invasive imaging to identify an AAA. This practice is evidenced based, based on 4 large randomized control trials and 2 Canadian AAA guidelines for AAA screening.^{1,2} Using such an approach is cost effective¹ and reduces rupture events and risk of death.
- For more information on the AAA Screening program, refer to the [AAA providers/patient website \(link\)](#).
- Primary Care Providers (including primary care specialists and nurse practitioners) play an important role the AAA journey. Ongoing care with a primary care provider is assumed to be part of the pathway map. For patients who do not have a primary care provider, HealthCare Connect is a government resource that can help patients find a primary care provider. Visit <https://hcc3.hcc.moh.gov.on.ca> or call 1-800-445-1822. You may also be able to access a primary care provider at local clinics in your area.
- The term ‘Vascular Specialist’, used throughout the pathway map, includes Vascular surgeons and Vascular Interventional Radiologists

Pathway Map Legend

Colour Guide	Shape Guide	Line Guide
 Primary Care	 Intervention	 Required
 Organized Diagnostic Assessment	 Decision or assessment point	 Possible
 Vascular Specialist	 Patient (disease) characteristics	
	 Consultation with specialist	
	 Exit pathway	
	 or  Off page reference	
	 Referral	

Pathway Map Disclaimer

This pathway map is a resource that provides an overview of the screening and treatment that an individual in the Ontario AAA Screening Program may receive.

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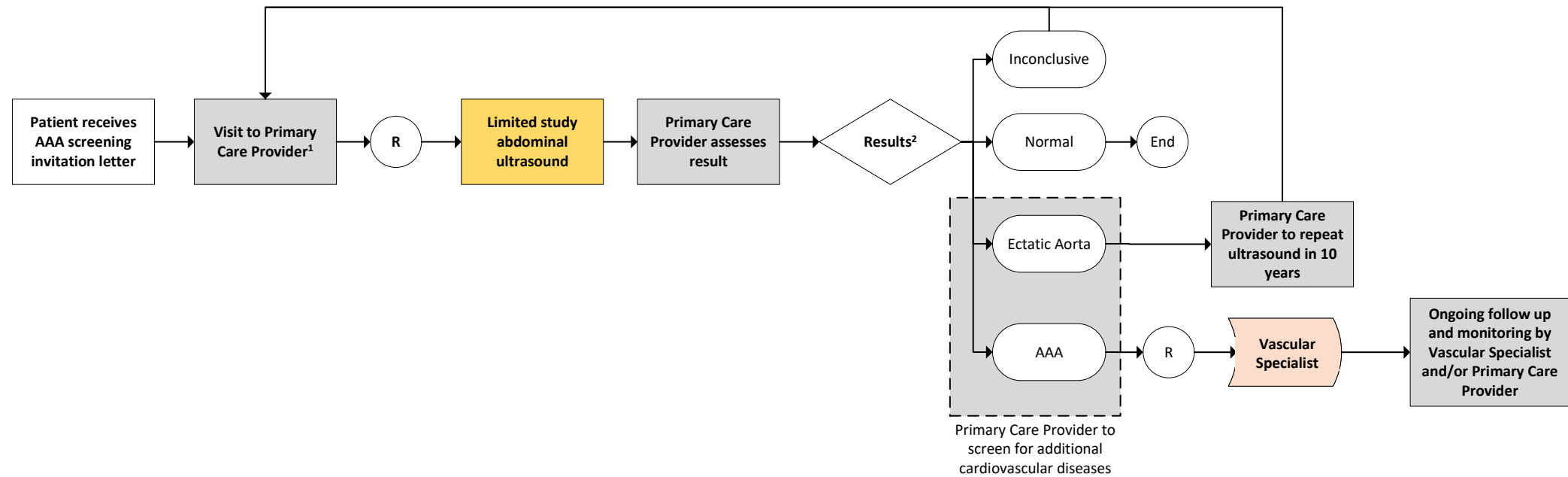
¹ CMAJ. (2017). CMAJ, 189(36), E1137-E1145. <https://doi.org/10.1503/cmaj.170118>
² Canadian Journal of Surgery. (2021). Can J Surg, 64(5), E461-E466. <https://doi.org/10.1503/CJS.009120>

Pathway Map Glossary

- Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA)** – An enlargement of the abdominal aorta more than 1.5-2 times the size of normal. An AAA is defined as an aorta measuring more than 3 cm in the abdomen.
- Limited Study Ultrasound** – A focused ultrasound assessing the abdominal aorta and iliac arteries only.
- Primary Care Provider** – A health care professional, including but not limited to, primary care specialists, and nurse practitioners who are able to assess, examine, and order ultrasound imaging.
- Designate** – A healthcare professional assisting in follow-up care for patients without a dedicated primary care provider.

Aorta Visualization Assessment	Management Recommendation
Inconclusive or Suboptimal Ultrasound	Primary care provider to order repeat ultrasound
Normal Result (aorta < 2.5 cm diameter)	No further testing required
Ectatic Aorta (aorta > 2.5 – < 3 cm diameter)	Primary care provider to repeat ultrasound in 10 years
AAA (aorta > 3 cm)	Consultation with vascular specialist

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¹ Primary Care Provider will assess clinical appropriateness for AAA screening as well as patient choice. They will also check for additional screening program eligibility.

² See Glossary for Results definitions